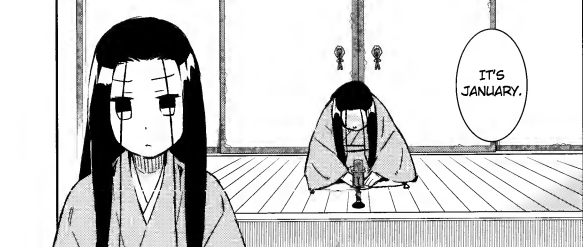


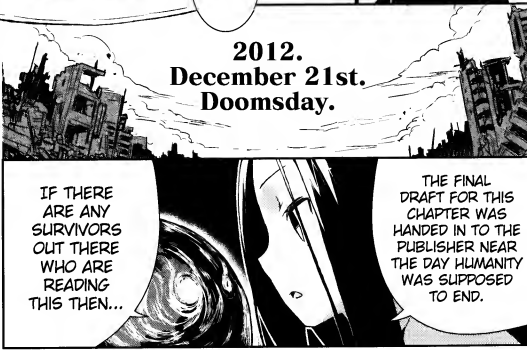
じよひらく

J
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S
H
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K
U





**2012.
December 21st.
Doomsday.**





**YOU HAVE
ASCENDED!**



**TRANSCENDED
DIMENSIONS,
RISEN TO A
HIGHER PLANE,
ASCENDED!!
IN OTHER
WORDS...**

**"ASCENDED"?
WHAT THE
HELL ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?**



**LIKE
YOU!**



**THOSE
WHO HAVE
RISEN TO
ONE RANK
ABOVE
NORMAL
HUMANITY!**



**AND
YOU!**



**AND
YOU!**

IF YOU
MANAGED
TO SURVIVE,
THEN YOU
MUST HAVE
ASCENDED.

AND
US...

THAT
MEANS
WE'RE
THE
CHOSEN
ONES?

SO...
SINCE WE
SURVIVED,

THE
WORLD
HAS BEEN
LEFT TO
US, THE
CHOSEN
ONES,
SO THAT
WE MAY
REBUILD
IT ANEW.

THE
IMMORAL
AND
IGNORANT
MASSES
HAVE
BEEN
PURGED.

HEY!!

SADLY,
THAT DOES
INDEED
SEEM TO
BE THE
CASE.

THEN...
MARI-
SAN
TOO?

THAT IS
CORRECT.

WE'RE
ONE RANK
ABOVE THE
REST OF
HUMANITY!

WE'RE
THE
CHOSEN
ONES!

SO DOES
THAT MEAN
THAT WE
SHIFTED
FROM
THE 3RD
DIMENSION
INTO THE 4TH
DIMENSION?
OR EVEN
5TH?

ASCENSION...
YOU'RE SAYING
THAT WE'VE
RISEN INTO
A WHOLE NEW
DIMENSION,
RIGHT?

SOUNDS
LIKE A
BUNCH OF
MUMBO-
JUMBO
TO ME.

THAT'S
SOOOO
COOL!!

WE HAVE
BROKEN
THROUGH
INTO THE
SPIRITUAL
REALM.

CORRECT.
IN THIS PLACE,
THE CONCEPT
OF TIME HAS
NO MEANING
ANYMORE.

IF 3D HAS
BECOME 4D,
AND 4D HAS
BECOME 5D
AND SO ON
THEN...

HANG
ON A
MINUTE..

HM...

WOULD
BE A
PRETTY
IMPRES-
SIVE
ASCEN-
SION.

NOW
THAT...

WILL
SUDDENLY
START FALL-
ING IN LOVE
WITH REAL
3D PEOPLE
INSTEAD!?

DOES THAT
MEAN THAT
PEOPLE WHO
WERE ONLY
INTERESTED
IN 2D GIRLS,

THAT
DOESN'T
COUNT AS
ASCEN-
SION!

HAVE ALL
BEEN DE-
STROYED.

THOSE
WHO
COULDN'T
ASCEND
FROM
LOVING
ONLY 2D,



THIS
HAS THE
POTENTIAL
TO DESTROY
JAPAN'S
ANIME AND
MANGA
CULTURE!

TH-THIS
IS BAD!

IS GOING
TO BE
REPLACED
WITH
AMERICAN
3D
ANIMATION?

DOES
THIS
MEAN
THAT
ALL
ANIME

THAT
WAS AN
OMEN
OF THIS
DIMEN-
SION
ASCEN-
SION!

I GUESS
WHEN
CHILD
PORN
LAWS
STARTED
TREATING
2D AS
3D...

SEEMS LIKE
KIND OF
A ONE-
DIMENSIONAL
FANBASE.

POINTS,
I GUESS...

WHAT IS
THERE
TO EVEN
LIKE
IN ONE
DIMEN-
SION?

DON'T WORRY,
IF YOU LIKED
SOMETHING IN
ONE DIMENSION,
YOU'LL PROBABLY
STILL LIKE
IT IF IT ASCENDS
INTO TWO
DIMENSIONS.

SO THEY'LL
HAVE TO
GIVE UP
DRAWING...

WELL, 2D
DOESN'T
HOLD ANY
MEANING
FOR THEM
ANY MORE.

WHAT'S GOING
TO HAPPEN TO
MANGAKA WHO
DID THEIR OWN
ILLUSTRATIONS?!

THAT
SOUNDS
LIKE THE
OPPOSITE
OF
ASCENSION
TO ME...

THAT'S
ASCEN-
SION!

AND
BECOME
JUST A
MANGA
WRITER
INSTEAD!

THEY'LL HAVE
TO GO TO
AKITA AND
WAIT FOR AN
ASCENSION
OF THEIR
OWN.

WHAT'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN TO
ALL THE
ILLUSTRATORS?

SO
THEY'LL
HAVE NO
IDEA OF
WHAT A
DEADLINE
EVEN IS
ANY-
MORE!



SEE
IN THIS
WORLD,
THERE
IS NO
CONCEPT
OF
TIME...

WON'T
BE ABLE
TO HIT
THEIR
DEAD-
LINES!

THERE'S
ANOTHER,
FAR WORSE
PROBLEM!
ALL THE
MANGA
ARTISTS
OUT THERE...

A-ARE YOU
REALLY SURE
ABOUT THAT?

**THAT'S
ASCEN-
SION!!**

HE MUST
BE IN
THE 8TH
DIMENSION
BY NOW
AT LEAST.

HE'S WAY
MORE THAN
ASCENDED!

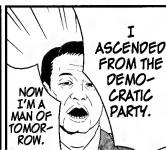
I GUESS
TOGASHI-
SENSEI
HAS BEEN
ASCENDED
FOR A WHILE
NOW, THEN.

SO THIS
MUST
MEAN
THAT
GAN...

NOPE.

HAS
ANYONE
SEEN
HER?

WAIT A
MINUTE,
WHERE'S
GAN-CHAN?



MOST
OF THOSE
DON'T
SOUND
TOO GOOD
TO ME.



- Amateur Model ascending to magazine model
- Hikikomori ascending into internet Live-streamer
- Horny asshole ascending to a wise man after masturbating
- Graviure Idol ascending to porn star
- Ascending from calling your mother "mama" to calling her "Old Bag"
- Children's pocket money ascending to child-care allowance
- Wakashu -> Inada -> Warasa -> Bun
- The ascension of Urawa, Onmya, Yono into Saitama City
- Idol fans ascending into Momoro Clover Z Fans
- Decathlon athlete ascending to King of The Beasts
- Sabaie City Spectacles ascending into SABAE EYEWEAR
- Japan Airline's Ascension Prize
- Home Electronics store and Clothing store ascending together to become a store that sells both electronics and clothes

EVERYONE
IS
ASCENDING!
ISN'T
IT JUST
LOVELY!?



THEY'LL
ASCEND
INTO
LOVING
4D!

WHAT
ABOUT
THOSE
WHO WERE
ALREADY
INTO 3D
IDOLS?
WHAT
HAPPENS
TO THEM?



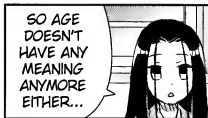
PEOPLE
ASCENDING
FROM LIKING
2D TO
LIKING 3D
I CAN
UNDERSTAND
BUT...



SO AGE
DOESN'T
HAVE ANY
MEANING
ANYMORE
EITHER...

WELL,
THERE IS
NO CONCEPT
OF TIME
ANYMORE.

LOVING 4D?
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?



カシッ



HEY.

EHH?



THOSE
TYPES
OF
PEOPLE
EXIST
ALREADY
!!!

THEY'LL
TRANSCEND
ANY IDEA
OF AGE,
AND LOVE
ANYONE,
NO MATTER
HOW OLD
THEY ARE!





SHE
ASCENDED,
JUST
LIKE US!

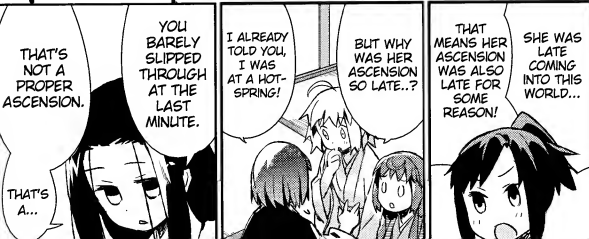
GAN-CHAN
WASN'T
DESTROYED
AFTER ALL!



AH,
I WON A BIT
OF MONEY ON
THE LOTTERY AND
STAYED AT A
HOT-SPRING FOR
A LITTLE WHILE.

YOU HAVEN'T
SHOWN
YOUR FACE
AROUND
HERE FOR
LIKE A MONTH,
WHAT THE
HELL WERE
YOU DOING?

HUH?
WHAT ARE
YOU ON
ABOUT?



THAT'S
NOT A
PROPER
ASCENSION.

YOU
BARELY
SLIPPED
THROUGH
AT THE
LAST
MINUTE.

I ALREADY
TOLD YOU,
I WAS
AT A HOT-
SPRING!

BUT WHY
WAS HER
ASCENSION
SO LATE..?

THAT
MEANS HER
ASCENSION
WAS ALSO
LATE FOR
SOME
REASON!

SHE WAS
LATE
COMING
INTO THIS
WORLD...

THAT'S
A...

Spare Ascension.

The people below filled a spare ascension vacancy.

- Kuurubiyuutei Gankyou.
- Naoto Kan.
- Kazuhiro Haraguchi.
- Kiyomi Tsujimoto.

THAT'S
A
SPARE
ASCENSION!

BUT GAN
WOULD
BE
ABOUT
3.2~3.5
AT
BEST...

WE'D ALL
BE AT
ABOUT
4.0~5.0.

YEAH,
IF WE
LOOKED
AT OUR
ASCENSION
SCORES..

THE
ASCENSION
DIDN'T HIT
ITS QUOTA
SO SPARES
GOT LET
IN TOO?

WHAT?

FINALLY,
I CAN BE
THE ONE
TO SAY
THAT!!

HER
LEVEL IS
LOWER
THAN
MINE!

GAN

HEH, HER
DIMENSION
LEVEL IS
LOWER
THAN
MINE.

IT'S JUST
BECAUSE
WE'RE IN
A WHOLE
OTHER
DIMENSION
COMPARED
TO YOU.

WHY DO
YOU ALL
KEEP
INSULTING
ME?

WHAT ARE
YOU GUYS
EVEN TALKING
ABOUT?

GAN-
MODOKI
TOFU!

IN THIS
PLACE,
GAN-CHAN,
YOU'RE ONLY
ON THE SAME
LEVEL AS...





Yasu's
comment

IN THE FIRST FEW CHAPTERS, GAN HAD A LITTLE FLOWER IN HER HAIR. SINCE SHE ALSO HAD GLASSES I FELT THAT HER DESIGN HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH GOING ON, SO I QUIETLY GOT RID OF IT.

WITH HER GOTH LOLI COSPLAY HOBBY AND HER CRIPPLING DEBT, HER PRIVATE LIFE SEEMS KINDA COOL AND DANGEROUS, I LOVE IT!

OH YEAH... IN THE BEGINNING I KINDA KEPT FORGETTING THAT SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE MASSIVE BOOBS, SO I ACCIDENTALLY DREW HER WITH SMALL ONES IN SOME OF THE OPENING PAGES A FEW TIMES (OOPS). I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT.... *SWEATS*.

I MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN TO DRAW HER AS A TRUE "COOL BEAUTY" A FEW TIMES, AND FOR THAT I APOLOGIZE TOO.



KURUBUNTEI
GANKYOU

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

DIMENSIONLESS

TITLE (次元無 - JIGENMU - NO DIMENSION) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY JUGEMU (寿限無).
SEE CHAPTER 27'S TL NOTES FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JUGEMU.
CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH JANUARY 2013.

PAGE 1:
21ST DECEMBER 2012, DOOMSDAY.
REFERENCE TO THE MAYAN CALENDAR AND THE SUPPOSED END OF THE WORLD.

PAGE 2:
"ASCENDED"? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?"
THE WORD KUKURU USES IS 次元上昇 (JIGENJOSHOU) WHICH LITERALLY MEANS DIMENSION ASCEND, AND WHICH SEEMS TO BE A MOSTLY NEW AGE TERM TO DESCRIBE ASCENSION. KUKURU SWITCHES BETWEEN THE ENGLISH WORD FOR ASCENSION AND JIGENJOSHOU THROUGHOUT THE CHAPTER.

PAGE 5:
"I GUESS WHEN CHILD PORN LAWS STARTED TO TREAT 2D AS 3D THAT WAS AN OMEN OF THIS DIMENSION ASCENSION!"
2D LOLICON MATERIAL IS STILL LEGAL IN JAPAN, BUT HAS GROWN MORE CONTROVERSIAL OVER THE YEARS WITH BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC INSTITUTES CALLING FOR IT TO BE BANNED.

"SO THEY'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP DRAWING... AND BECOME JUST A MANGA WRITER INSTEAD!"
KUMETA SELF-REFERENCING BEING JUST THE WRITER FOR JOSHIRAKU, NOT THE WRITER AND ILLUSTRATOR, AS HE IS FOR MOST OF HIS OTHER WORKS.

PAGE 6:
"THEY'LL HAVE TO GO TO AKITA AND WAIT FOR AN ASCENSION OF THEIR OWN."
REFERENCE TO CHAPTER 36'S END PAGE, "THE ADVENTURES OF YASU I" WHERE HE WENT AND LIVED IN AKITA FOR A MONTH.
THOUGH NOT REVEALED ON THAT PAGE, THE STAY WAS RUMOURED TO BE DUE TO YASU AGREEING A CONTRACT TO START A NEW MANGA, "HOKKENSITSU", WHERE HE ACTED AS BOTH THE AUTHOR AND THE ILLUSTRATOR.
IF YOU LIKE YASU'S STYLE, CHECK IT OUT, IT'S PRETTY COOL.

"IN THAT CASE I GUESS TOGASHI-SENSEI HAS BEEN ASCENDED FOR A WHILE NOW."
"HE MUST BE IN THE 8TH DIMENSION BY NOW AT LEAST."
YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI, AUTHOR OF HUNTER X HUNTER, FAMED FOR ITS LONG PERIODS OF INACTIVITY.

PAGE 7:
"I ASCENDED FROM BEING A SWIMMER!"
TAJIMA YASUKO, FAMOUS OLYMPIC SWIMMER WHO DID INDEED DO SOME ACTING WORK AFTER RETIRING FROM THE SPORT.

"I ASCENDED FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY!"
OZAWA ICHIRO, WHO LEFT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN TO JOIN THE TOMORROW PARTY OF JAPAN.

"I ASCENDED FROM AKB48!"
SASHIHARA RINO, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN A SEX SCANDAL AND WAS DEMOTED TO HKT48, ALSO REFERENCED IN CHAPTER 37.



PAGE 8:

ASCENSION LIST:

- HORNY ASSHOLE ASCENDING TO A WISE MAN AFTER MASTURBATING.
REFERENCE TO JAPANESE INTERNET MEME 賢者タイム (KENJA TAIMU - WISE-MAN TIME) WHICH IS THE PERIOD AFTER MASTURBATION IN WHICH A MAN CAN THINK CLEARLY AND FREELY.

- WAKASHI -> INADA -> WARASA -> BURI.

ALL OF THESE NAMES ARE NAMES FOR THE JAPANESE AMBERJACK FISH AT ITS DIFFERENT DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES. THE DIFFERENT AGES PROVIDE DIFFERENT TASTES IN COOKING ETC.

- THE ASCENSION OF URAWA, OMIYA, YONO INTO SAITAMA CITY.

SAITAMA CITY WAS FORMALLY CREATED IN 2001 AFTER MERGING THE 3 CITIES LISTED ABOVE.

- DECATHLON ATHLETE ASCENDING TO KING OF THE BEASTS.

SO TAKEI IS A DECATHELETE KNOWN BY HIS NICKNAME, "KING OF THE BEASTS".

- JAPAN AIRLINE'S ASCENSION PRIZE.

REFERENCE TO AN OLD JAPAN AIRLINE COMPETITION SLOGAN, "ASCENSION PRIZE", WHICH IS A PUN ON THE JAPANESE PRONUNCIATION OF "ATTENTION PLEASE".

- HOME ELECTRONICS STORES AND CLOTHING STORES ASCENDING TOGETHER TO BECOME A STORE THAT SELLS BOTH ELECTRONICS AND CLOTHES.

REFERENCE TO JAPANESE ELECTRONICS STORE BIC CAMERA AND UNIQLO WHO TEAMED UP TO CREATE BICSILO.

PAGE 10:

SPARE ASCENSION LIST:

KUURUBIMUITEI GANKYOU, NAOTO KAN, KAZUHIRO HARABUCHI, KIYOMI TSUJIMOTO.

ALL OF THESE ARE JAPANESE POLITICIANS WHO FAILED TO WIN ENOUGH VOTES TO WIN A SEAT IN THE JAPANESE LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT IN THEIR SINGLE SEAT CONSTITUENCY, BUT WON A SEAT ANYWAY THROUGH OTHER, PROPORTIONALLY DISTRIBUTED CONSTITUENCIES. EXCEPT GAN, OBVIOUSLY.

"IN THIS PLACE, GAN-CHAN, YOU'RE ONLY ON THE SAME LEVEL AS... GANMODOKI TOFU!"

GANMODOKI IS A FRIED TOFU FRITTER MADE WITH VEGETABLES, EGG WHITE AND SESAME SEEDS.

PAGE 11, PANEL 1:

THE WRESTLING MOVE THAT GAN IS USING IS THE FLYING CROSS CHOP, FAMOUSLY USED BY MIL MASCARAS.

"A FOUR DIMENSIONAL STYLE ATTACK!"

FOUR DIMENSIONAL STYLE WAS THE NAME GIVEN TO THE FIRST TIGER MASK'S (SAYAMA SATORU) FIGHTING STYLE, BY SPORTS COMMENTATOR FUJITACHI ICHIRO. IT INCORPORATED MARTIAL ARTS TECHNIQUES AND LUCHA LIBRE MANOEUVERS. REFERENCES TO THIS FOUR-DIMENSIONAL STYLE CAN BE FOUND IN MANY WRESTLING MANGA AND ANIME. THE PERSON SPEAKING IS TOSHIHIRO MIURA, JOSHIRAKU'S FORMER EDITOR AND FREQUENT RECURRING GUEST. HE HAS BEEN STYLED HERE TO LOOK LIKE FORMER JAPANESE WRESTLER ANTONIO INOKI. THE WAY HE'S SPEAKING IS MODELLED ON OLD SHONEN WRESTLING MANGA.

PAGE 12:

"STOP THAT, IT'S WEIRD!"

WHAT KUKURU IS DOING HERE IS KNOWN AS "USHI NO TOKI MAIRI" (OX-HOUR SHRINE-VISIT).

IT'S A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE METHOD FOR LAYING A CURSE ON SOMEONE.

TO PULL OFF THE CURSE, THE PRACTITIONER MUST DRIVE A NAIL THROUGH A STRAW EFFIGY OF THE PERSON THEY WISH TO CURSE, AND AFFIX IT TO A SACRED TREE AT A SHINTO SHRINE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING, A PERIOD KNOWN AS THE "OX HOUR".

IF THEY CAN DO THIS 7 TIMES WITHOUT BEING DISCOVERED, THEN THE CURSE IS SUCCESSFUL AND THE CURSED PERSON DIES.

BADMOUTHING ON THE INTERNET.

ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN HERE YOU CAN SEE A VASE-SHAPED POT.

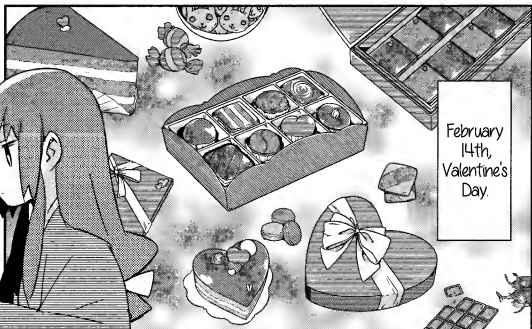
THIS POT IS PRESENT ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE JAPANESE WEBSITE "2CHANNEL", FOUNDED IN 1999 BY NISHIMURA HIROYUKI.





AUTHOR KUMETA NANCY KOJI

MANGA SID VICIOYASU



February
14th,
Valentine's
Day.



AH, MARI-SAN!
THERE'S A
WHOLE HEAP
OF PRESENTS
WAITING FOR
YOU UPSTAIRS!

Due to persistent
rumours that she
is actually a
cross-dressing boy,
every year Mari-san
is given mountains of
chocolate by secret
admirers

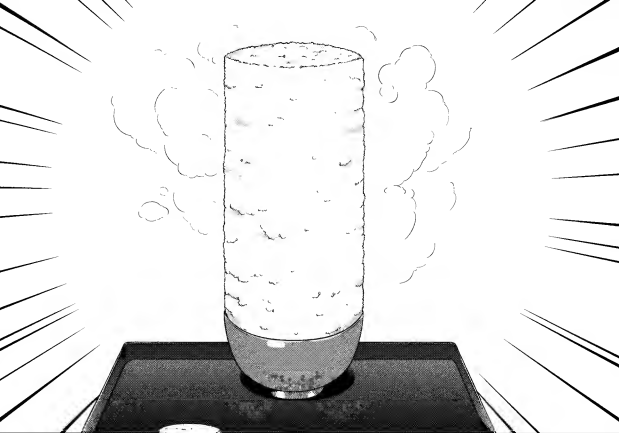


AGAIN?
MORE
CHOCO-
LATES,
MAYBE...



THIS
IS...







IT'S
FOR
THE
RICE
PILE
FESTI-
VAL!



JUST
SHUT
UP,
MARI-
SAN...




"RICE PILE
FESTIVAL"?
WHAT?



EAT
UNTIL
YOU'RE
FULL!!

EAT
IT UP!!



GULP

CHEW
CHEW



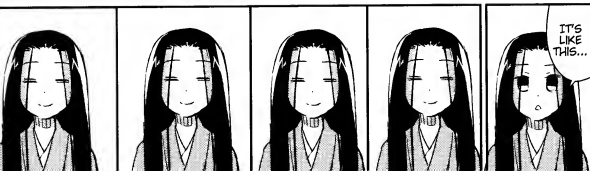
AND
EAT THE
DAMN
RICE
ALREADY!

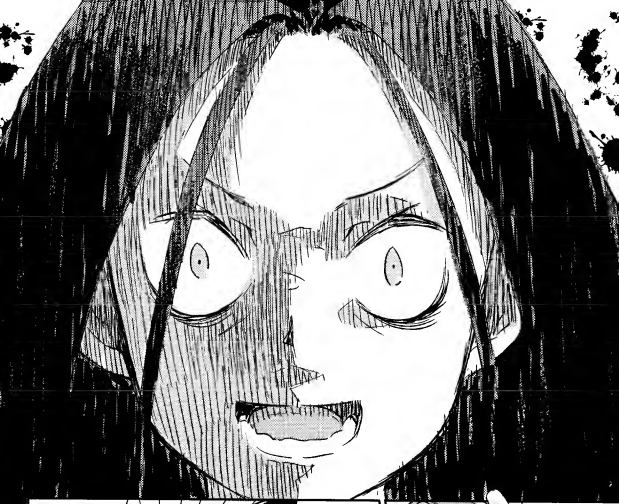


WHAT
THE HELL
DID YOU
DO THAT
FOR?!

MMFF~

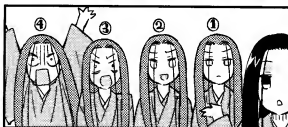






SCARY
!!

GET
IT?

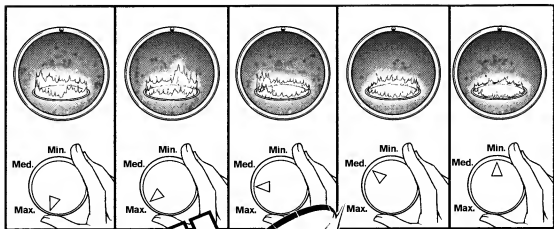


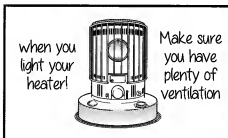
THERE'S NO
STEPS OR
GRADUATIONS
LIKE THIS,
IT'S ALL ONE
THING OR THE
OPPOSITE.

IT
IS?

THE HEATER IN
OUR DRESSING
ROOM IS KINDA
LIKE THAT.

ARRRGH!!





- Sudden Child Porn
- Suddenly Ignored by the producer
- Sudden adult video performances
- Suddenly Unemployed
- Sudden Breaking News
- Sudden Criminalisation
- Sudden Registration Closure
- Sudden Audience
- Suddenly serving juice in an alcohol glass
- Sudden Heavy snow
- Suddenly moving to a smartphone from a flip phone

- Sudden Cheap Yen
- Sudden Strong Markets
- Sudden Hakata and Jakarita
- Sudden Priesthood
- Sudden sex change surgery
- Sudden 'Our journey has only just begun!'
- Sudden stuffed bear sales to boys
- Sudden death from golden goals
- Sudden Int. song
- Sudden trip to Akita





STRING..

WELL
THERE'S
ANOTHER
THING THAT
CAN BREAK
TOO...



THEY SAY THAT
THE JAPANESE
HAVE NO MIDDLE
GROUND AND
CAN SUDDENLY
BREAK UNDER
PRESSURE.



LIHHH...

W-WAIT,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

**All of a sudden the story
comes to a grinding halt.**



WE
CAN'T!
THE
FLOW
HAS
BEEN
BROKEN!

SOME-
ONE SAY
SOME-
THING,
ANY-
THING!



WHAT
DO WE
DO!?

THE
AUTHOR'S
STRING OF
THOUGHT
HAS BEEN
BROKEN!



WE NEED
TO GET
BACK
TO OUR
ROOTS!

WAIT, MAYBE
WE'VE BEEN
WRONG ALL
ALONG,
TRYING
TO SAY
INTERESTING
THINGS,



SALMON
OR
PICKLED
PLUMS?

HEY
EVERYONE,
WHICH
SIDE-DISH
FOR RICE
DO YOU
PREFER?

PURE
DELIGHT

DON'T
ASK
STUPID
QUES-
TIONS!

So that the cuteness of the girls can be fully enjoyed, this manga offers completely inoffensive dialogue that will not bother the reader.

DON'T
ASK
STUPID
QUES-
TIONS!

DON'T
ASK
STUPID
QUES-
TIONS!!

I GUESS
NOBODY
CARES
ANYMORE
SINCE WE'RE
SO CLOSE
TO THE
END...

WHAT THE
HELL IS
GOING ON
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?

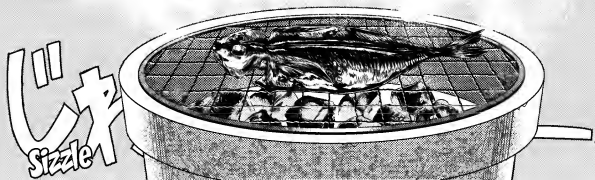
ALL THIS
PLAIN
RICE BY
ITSELF
WOULD
BE SO
BORING!

OH RIGHT,
WHEN IT
COMES
TO SIDE
DISHES
ANYTHING
IS FINE,

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

WELL LIKE,
EVEN IF
YOU THINK
CHOCOLATE
IS KINDA CRAPPY,
YOU CAN STILL
TURN IT A
GOOD PRESENT
IF YOU ADD...

SINCE IT'S
JUST PLAIN,
ISN'T THIS
RICE SORT OF
A CRAPPY,
BORING
PRESENT
INSTEAD OF
A PROPER
HEARTFELT
ONE?





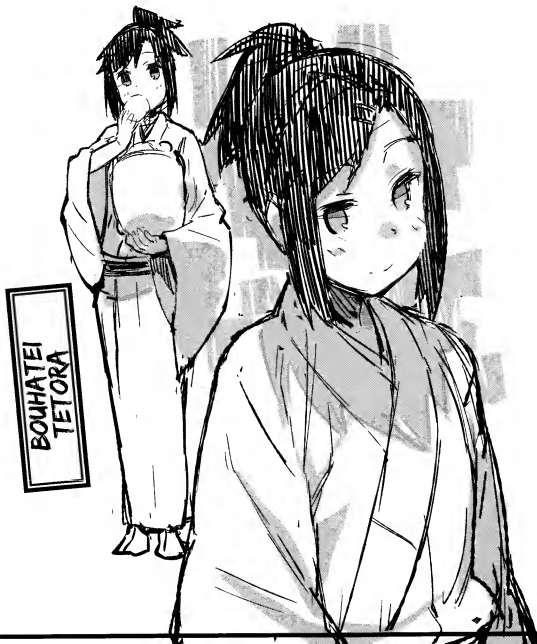
Yasu's
comment

TETORA ACTS LIKE A KIND OF BUFFER AGAINST ALL THE INSANITY OF THE OTHERS. THOUGH SHE NEVER EVER GETS BOGGED DOWN OR DROWNED OUT, THAT'S ALL THANKS TO KUMETA-SENSEI'S WRITING AND THE WONDERFUL PERSONALITY HE GAVE TO HER.

TETORA WAS CREATED AFTER THE FIRST CHAPTER HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE. ME AND KUMETA SUDDENLY DECIDED THAT WE NEEDED TO ADD ANOTHER CHARACTER, SO SHE WAS KIND OF DESIGNED IN A HURRY.

WE'D RUN OUT OF HAIR COLOURS FOR HER TO HAVE, AND HER HAIR DESIGN IS A LITTLE MORE PLAIN, BUT SHE FITS IN WELL THE OTHERS, THANKFULLY.

SHE CAN EAT WHATEVER SHE WANTS WITHOUT GETTING FAT,
GOD DAMN IT I'M SO JEALOUS!



TRANSLATOR'S NOTES.

SUDDEN CUT

THE TITLE (突ギレ - TOTSU GIRE) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY たちぎれ (TACHIGIRE - TIME'S UP). THE STORY IS ABOUT A WOMANIZING YOUNG MAN WHO WASTES HIS FAMILY'S MONEY AND THREATENS THEIR HONOUR BY SPENDING SO MUCH TIME IN VARIOUS TAVERNS AND BROTHELS. CONCERNED, HIS FAMILY FINALLY TAKES ACTION AND DECIDES TO KEEP HIM IMPRISONED ON THEIR GROUNDS FOR 100 DAYS, SO THAT HE CAN REFLECT PROPERLY ON HIS ACTIONS. UPON LEAVING HIS IMPRISONMENT, HE IS DISTRAUGHT TO FIND THAT HIS GEISHA GIRLFRIEND, KOITO, HAS DIED AND IS CONVINCED THAT IT WAS BECAUSE OF HIS SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE. HE VISITS A TEAHOUSE AND TALKS TO THE PROPRIETRESS ABOUT KOITO, WHILE SHE INITIALLY THINKS THAT IT WAS HIS FAULT THAT KOITO DIED, SHE FORGIVES HIM ONCE SHE FINDS OUT THAT HE WAS FORCIBLY IMPRISONED, SHE TAKES HIM TO SEE KOITO'S FINAL RESTING PLACE. THE YOUNG MAN BRINGS A SHAMISEN AND PLACES IT ON HER GRAVE. AS HE APOLOGIZES AND SOBS OVER HIS ACTIONS, THE SHAMISEN BEGINS TO PLAY ITSELF.

CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH FEBRUARY 2013.

TITLE PAGE:

KUMETA "NANCY" KOUJI AND SID VICIOUS/YASU.

REFERENCE TO THE SEX PISTOLS' BASSIST SID VICIOUS, AND HIS GIRLFRIEND NANCY SPUNGEN.

PAGE 1:

VALENTINE'S DAY.

IN JAPAN, GIRLS GIVE BOYS CHOCOLATE ON VALENTINE'S DAY, NOT THE OTHER WAY ROUND. THE CHOCOLATE SHAPED LIKE A BEETLE IN THIS PANEL IS A REFERENCE TO FAMOUS SWEET SHOP KOMATSUYA HONTEN, BASED IN AKITA. THOUGH NOT INCLUDED IN THE TANKOBAN SCANS, ON THE MAGAZINE VERSION OF THIS CHAPTER, THERE WAS A MARGIN NOTE THAT SAID, "FROM NOTO AND AKITA WITH LOVE!", A REFERENCE TO KUMETA STAYING AT A HOT-SPRING IN NOTO AT THE TIME OF THE CHAPTER'S WRITING, AND YASU VISITING HIS GIRLFRIEND ON HIS TRIP TO AKITA THAT WAS MENTIONED IN THE LAST VOLUME, AS WELL AS SIGNING A CONTRACT FOR A NEW MANGA THERE.

PAGE 2:

"WELL PEOPLE SAY THAT THEY PREFER MONEY AND RICE OVER CHOCOLATE."

PREFERRING RICE OVER CHOCOLATE IS A WAY OF SAYING YOU PREFER RELIABLE STABILITY INSTEAD OF FLASHINESS.

PAGE 3:

IT'S FOR THE RICE PILE FESTIVAL!

THE RICE PILE FESTIVAL OR THE "MOSSOU FESTIVAL" IS A TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL HELD IN WAJIMA. PEOPLE STACK THEIR BOWLS WITH AS MUCH RICE AS THEY CAN IN THE COLUMN SHAPE YOU SEE IN THE PANEL. IT TRADITIONALLY TAKES PLACE ON THE 16TH FEBRUARY.

PAGE 4:

"IN THOSE OLDEN DAYS, FARMERS IN THE KAGA DOMAIN..."

THE KAGA DOMAIN WAS AN AREA OF JAPAN IN THE EDO PERIOD COMPRISING OF THE PROVINCES OF KAGA, NOTO AND ETCHU, IT WAS ECONOMICALLY DEPENDANT ON THE RICE HARVESTS.

"SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE WENT ON AN INFORMATION GATHERING TRIP."

AGAIN, A REFERENCE TO KUMETA GOING ON A SPA-TRIP TO NOTO OVER THE NEW YEAR PERIOD, AND BEING TRAPPED THERE FOR AN EXTENDED AMOUNT OF TIME DUE TO HEAVY SNOW. THIS EVENT IS PROBABLY ALSO REFERENCED IN THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER WHERE GAN DISAPPEARS TO A SPA FOR A LONG TIME, TOO.

"BUYING CLOTHES FOR YOUR "WIFE" SO THAT THE GIRLS IN YOUR MANGA CAN WEAR THEM."

I COULDN'T FIND MUCH INFORMATION REGARDING THIS REFERENCE. I'M GOING TO ASSUME THAT IT'S KUMETA THAT DOES THIS THOUGH, AS THE MAIN FEMALE CAST IN SZS IS USUALLY IMPECCABLY WELL-DRESSED WHEN NOT WEARING UNIFORM, TO THE POINT OF LOOKING LIKE RICH COLLEGE STUDENTS, WHO ARE KNOWN FOR BEING FASHION CONSCIOUS IN JAPAN.

AS FOR THE WIFE PART, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, KUMETA IS NOT MARRIED

(OR IS AT LEAST VERY SECRETIVE ABOUT IT), AND IS JUST

MAKING A JOKE ABOUT HOSTESS BAR GIRLS BEING HIS "WIFE".

(BUYING CLOTHES AND GIFTS FOR HOSTESS BAR GIRLS IS COMMON).

HOWEVER THERE IS A RECURRING JOKE ON THE INTERNET THAT HE'S MARRIED TO

RYOKO SHINTANI (UZANNII'S VOICE ACTRESS).



PAGE 8:
SUDDEN LIST:
SUDDEN CHILD PORN.
REFERENCE TO IDOL TOMOMI KASAI, WHO WAS PHOTOGRAPHED WITH A CHILD HOLDING HER BREASTS LIKE A HAND-BRA.
IT CAUSED A HUGE SCANDAL THAT GOT REPORTED EVEN IN THE WEST.

SUDDENLY IGNORED BY THE PRODUCER.
REFERENCE TO IDOL GROUPS AND SEX SCANDALS CAUSING THEM TO BE FIRED.

SUDDENLY SERVING JUICE IN AN ALCOHOL GLASS.
REFERENCE TO AN INCIDENT IN JAPAN IN WHICH A SHOP CAUSED A CONTROVERSY BY SERVING CHILDREN SOFT DRINKS
INSIDE A HIGH-BALL GLASS.

SUDDEN HEAVY SNOW.
REFERENCE TO THE HEAVY SNOW THAT STRANDED KUMETA IN NOTO.

SUDDENLY MOVING TO A SMARTPHONE FROM A FLIP-PHONE.
FLIP-PHONES WERE MASSIVELY POPULAR IN JAPAN WAY AFTER THEY'D LOST FAVOUR IN THE REST OF THE WORLD,
HOWEVER JAPAN IS NOW FIRMLY ON THE SMARTPHONE CRAZE.

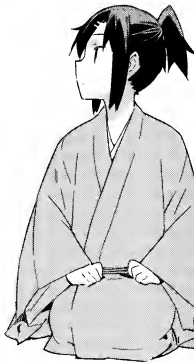
SUDDEN CHEAP YEN. SUDDEN STRONG MARKETS.
REFERENCE TO ABENOMICS, SHINZO ABE'S PLAN TO RESTORE JAPAN'S ECONOMY.
THE PLAN INVOLVED QUANTITATIVE EASING, I.E. PRINTING MORE MONEY TO SLIGHTLY DEVALUE THE YEN.
DEVALUING YOUR OWN CURRENCY MAKES IT EASIER TO EXPORT GOODS.

SUDDEN HAKATA AND JAKARTA.
REFERENCE TO AKB48 SPIN-OFF GROUPS, HKT48 AND JKT48.

PAGE 10:
"ISN'T THIS RICE KIND OF AN CRAPPY, BORING PRESENT?"
IN THE ORIGINAL SCRIPT, THIS RICE IS CALLED "GIRI-MAI" (LIT. OBLIGATION RICE). THIS IS A REFERENCE TO
GIRI-CHOCO, WHICH IS A CHEAP CHOCOLATE GIFT THAT YOU GIVE TO A CO-WORKER OR CLASSMATE THAT YOU AREN'T
ROMANTICALLY ATTACHED TO ON VALNETINE'S DAY. THE OPPOSITE OF THIS IS HONMEI-CHOCO, WHICH IS A MORE
ELABORATE PRESENT, USUALLY HAND-MADE THAT YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE YOU ACTUALLY LIKE.

PAGE 11:
"SIDE-DISHES BEHIND THE BLACKBOARD?!"
THE SIDE DISHES HERE INCLUDE: NATTO (FERMENTED SOYBEANS),
TAMAGOYAKI (A KIND OF OMELETTE), MENTAIKO (POLLACK EGGS),
SURSTROMMING (FERMENTED BALTIC SEA HERRING), PORK CUTLETS,
CRAB CROQUETTES AND SOME PORN MAGS FOR GOOD MEASURE.

PAGE 12:
**"WELL I GUESS IT'S FINE IF OUR READERS JUST WANT TO USE
MARII-SAN AS A "SIDE-DISH" OF THEIR OWN..."**
オカズ - 'OKAZU' MEANS "SIDE DISH FOR RICE" BUT CAN ALSO MEAN
"MATERIAL FOR MASTURBATION" OR "MASTURBATION SIDE-DISH" MORE LITERALLY.



じょしらく







**IT'S
SUCH A
MESS!**



**BECAUSE
YOU NEVER
EVER KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
GOING
TO GET!**

**UHH,
WHAT?
WHY?**



**BUT
WHITE DAY
DOESN'T
MAKE
SENSE,
YOU CAN
BE GIVEN
ANYTHING!**

**ON VALENTINE'S
DAY YOU GET
CHOCOLATE!
THAT'S JUST WHAT
HAPPENS, IT'S SET
IN STONE!**

**NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION IT,
THAT IS
A LITTLE
STRANGE.**



**AFTER
ALL THESE
YEARS
IT'S STILL
ALL SO
VAGUE!!**

**I
THOUGHT
IT WAS
MARSH-
MALLOWS?**

**IN THE
BEGINNING,
YOU WERE
SUPPOSED
TO GIVE
CANDY.**



**BUT IF
YOU
REALLY
WANNA
MAKE AN
IMPACT
ON WHITE
DAY
THEN...**

**CANDY AND
MARSH-
MALLOWS
ARE FINE,
I GUESS.**



**IT'S
SO CON-
FUSING
FOR THE
BOYS!**

**YOU
CAN'T GET
EXCITED
BECAUSE
YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
GOING
TO GET!**



HMM...

TO BE HONEST,
I DON'T THINK
I'D BE TOO
PLEASED IF
I JUST GOT
CANDY OR
MARSHMALLOWS
ON WHITE DAY.

THOSE THINGS
ARE KINDA CHEAP,
SO THAT'S
PROBABLY WHY
THEY FEEL OBLIGED
TO GIVE SOME
JEWELRY AS WELL.

SOME GUYS
AND THEIR NICE
GUY ATTITUDES
DON'T FEEL
RIGHT JUST
GIVING SWEETS
OR MARSH-
MALLOWS,

THAT'S
NO
GOOD!

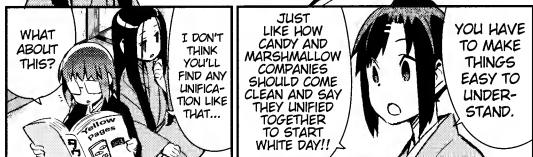
WHAT
ABOUT
JUST
GIVING
JEWELRY
IN THE
FIRST PLACE?

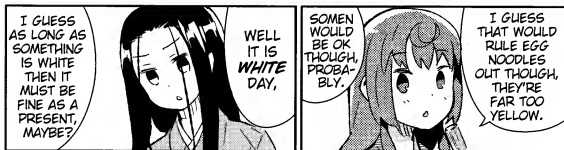
THEY
WOULDN'T
FEEL
GUILTY,
AND THEY
WOULDN'T
WANT TO
GIVE ANY
JEWELRY!

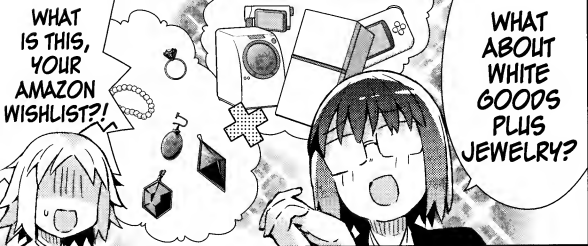
IF THEY
HAD TO GIVE
WONDERFUL,
LUXURIOUS
SWEETS
THEN...

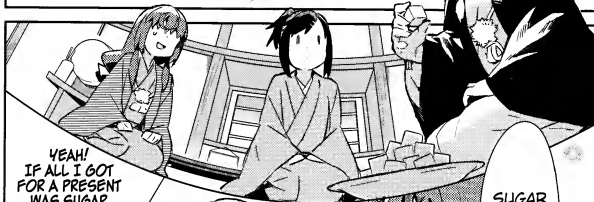
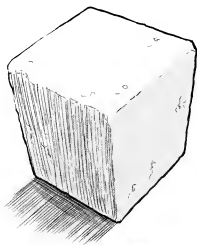
AND
GETTING
THE
"SERVICE"
WITHOUT
HAVING
A BATH!

THAT'S
LIKE
GOING TO
A SOAP-
LAND,









YEAH!
IF ALL I GOT
FOR A PRESENT
WAS SUGAR
CUBES, THEN
THE JEWELRY
WOULD HAVE
TO BE EXTRA
GORGEOUS TO
MAKE UP FOR IT,
RIGHT?

SUGAR
CUBES?



WHO DID
YOU GIVE
CHOCOLATE
TO ON
VALENTINE'S
DAY?

HEY,
GAN-
CHAN...

AHHH,
I WANT
SUGAR
CUBES
FOR
WHITE
DAY!



I
SEE...

NOBODY.



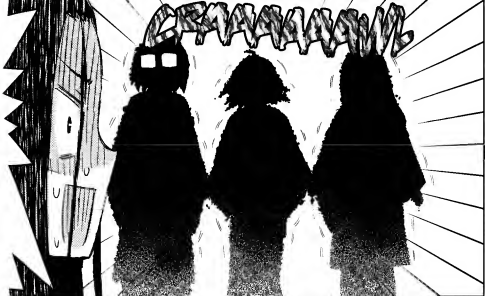
THEN
YOU WON'T
GET ANY
PRESENTS
BACK
EITHER.

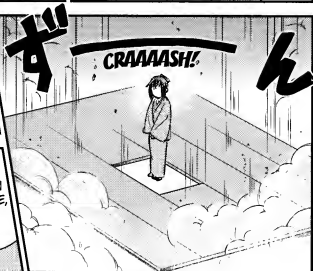
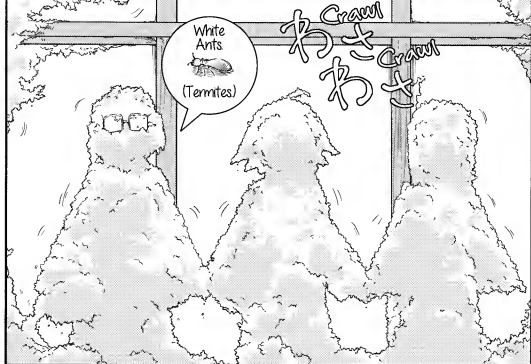
WELL,
IF YOU
DIDN'T
GIVE ANY
PRESENTS
TO ANYONE,





UG-
YAAA
AAAA
AAAH
!!





Yasu's
comment

THE MORE I DRAW KUKURU, THE MORE I OBSESS OVER GETTING HER HAIR RIGHT. I'VE OFTEN THOUGHT ABOUT CHANGING HER HAIRSTYLE, BUT I'M A LITTLE SCARED OF SCREWING UP HER IMAGE SO I ALWAYS JUST LEAVE IT ALONE.

SEEING HER WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT HAIRSTYLES IN THE TRAVELLING SEGMENTS IN THE ANIME WAS JUST WONDERFUL! THEY GOT A LOT OF MILEAGE OUT OF HER LONG HAIR.

ORIGINALLY, KUKURU WORE A WHITE KIMONO, WHICH MADE HER LOOK EVEN MORE ETHEREAL.

SHE'S ALWAYS SO MUCH FUN TO DRAW.



ANRAKUTEI
KIKURI

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

PROPERLY EVALUATED DOUBLE SUICIDE

THE TITLE (品定め心中 - SHINASADAME SHINJUU) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY 品川心中 (SHINAGAWA SHINJUU). THE STORY REVOLVES AROUND A PROSTITUTE WORKING IN A SHINAGAWA BATHHOUSE. AFTER NOT GETTING ANY NEW CUSTOMERS FOR A WHILE AND BEING MOCKED FOR IT BY THE YOUNGER GIRLS, AND LACKING ANY MONEY TO RETIRE OR GO ON A BREAK, SHE DECIDES TO COMMIT SUICIDE. HOWEVER SHE DOES NOT WANT TO DO IT ALONE, AND HAS ASPIRATIONS OF A ROMANTIC AND GRANDIOSE LOVER'S SUICIDE, SO SHE WAITS UNTIL HER FAVOURITE CUSTOMER ARRIVES, A BOOKSELLER NAMED KINZO, WHO SHE THEN "COERCES" INTO JOINING HER. CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH MARCH 2013.

PAGE 1:
"BUT THIS WHITE DAY, I GOT LOTS AND LOTS OF PRESENTS FROM OUR GUESTS!"

ON VALENTINE'S DAY IN JAPAN, GIRLS GIVE CHOCOLATE TO THE BOYS, AND ON WHITE DAY, WHICH TAKES PART EXACTLY ONE MONTH AFTER, THE BOYS GIVE PRESENTS TO THE GIRLS.

PAGE 2:
"AFTER ALL THESE YEARS IT'S STILL ALL SO VAGUE!!!"

WHITE DAY WAS FIRST CELEBRATED IN 1978 IN JAPAN AND WAS RUMOURED TO HAVE BEEN STARTED BY THE NATIONAL CONFECTIONERY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AS AN "ANSWER DAY" TO VALENTINE'S DAY, AS A WAY TO DRIVE UP PROFITS IN SPRING, IN LIEU OF JAPAN NOT CELEBRATING EASTER. IN 1977, A FUKUOKA-BASED CONFECTIONERY COMPANY, "ISHIMURA SANSEIDO", MARKETED MARSHMALLOWS TO MEN ON MARCH 14, CALLING IT MARSHMALLOW DAY. BOTH COMPANIES SORT OF LAY CLAIM TO THE IDEA OF CREATING WHITE DAY.

PAGE 4:
"THAT'S LIKE GOING TO A SOAPLAND AND GETTING THE "SERVICE" WITHOUT HAVING A BATH!"

A SOAPLAND IS A KIND OF BROTHEL. IN JAPAN, EXPLICIT PROSTITUTION WAS BANNED IN THE 1950S, SOAPLANDS GET AROUND THIS BAN BY TECHNICALLY ONLY OFFERING UP THE USE OF THE BATHHOUSE AS WELL AS A PARTNER TO WASH YOU. ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS WITH THE PARTNER AFTER THE BATH IS LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE CUSTOMER AND THE PARTNER, AND IS THEREFORE JUST ABOUT LEGAL IF YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO HARD.

PAGE 5:
"IT'S SAYS RIGHT HERE, UNIFICATIONISM."

PUN ON THE JAPANESE WORD FOR UNIFIED BUSINESS, 統一業界 (TOUITSU GYOUKAI) AND THE JAPANESE NAME FOR THE UNIFICATION CHURCH (統一教会 - TOUITSU KYOUKAI). THE UNIFICATION CHURCH WAS FOUNDED IN 1954 BY SUN MYUNG MOON IN SOUTH KOREA. ITS BELIEFS ARE DERIVED FROM THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE, THUS WHY I USED THE STANDARD LORD'S PRAYER FOR THE JOKE LATER ON THE PAGE.

"!!!"AND LE~D US FROM TEMPTATION\$... AMEN"

GAN HEARS "AMEN" HERE, WHICH SOUNDS LIKE A JAPANESE WORD FOR SWEETS OR CANDY, "AME", AND ALSO THE WORLD FOR NOODLES, 麺 (MEN).

PAGE 6:
"WHAT ABOUT TOFU AND YUBA AND STUFF LIKE THAT?"

TOFU IS A SOFT WHITE BLOCK MADE FROM COAGULATING SOY MILK AND PRESSING THE CURDS TOGETHER. DURING THIS PROCESS, A SKIN APPEARS ON TOP OF THE MILK, THIS SKIN IS PEELED OFF AND DRIED, WITH THE RESULT CALLED YUBA, OR TOFU SKIN.

PAGE 7:
"WHAT ABOUT WHITE GOODS PLUS JEWELRY?"
"WHAT IS THIS, YOUR AMAZON WISHLIST?!"

WHITE GOODS IS THE NAME GENERALLY GIVEN TO LARGE WHITE KITCHEN APPLIANCES. THE JAPANESE TERM GAN USES HERE IS 白物家電 WHICH DIRECTLY TRANSLATES TO "WHITE APPLIANCES".

KIGU MENTIONS A JAPANESE ELECTRONICS STORE CALLED YODOBASHI CAMERA RATHER THAN AMAZON. IT OPERATES MUCH THE SAME WAY AS AMAZON, BUT FOCUSES ON ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES RATHER THAN BOOKS AND MEDIA.





I JUST
FEEL SO
BORED
AND
LISTLESS.

UGH...
I KNOW
IT'S
SPRING
AND I
SHOULD
BE HAPPY
BUT...

THE
KANJI
FOR
SPRING.

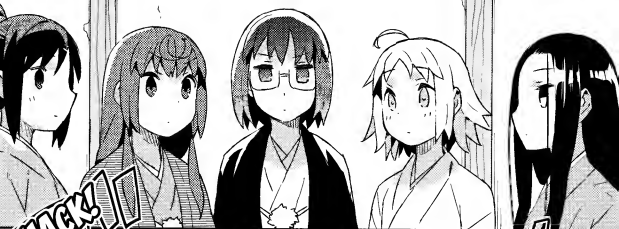
春
Spring

IT'S
BECAUSE
OF THIS,

A DAY
FOR
THREE
PEOPLE!

WHEN
YOU
SPLIT IT
UP LIKE
THIS, IT
MEANS...

三
Three
人
Person
日
Day
← 春
Spring



SNACK!



THERE'S
TOO
MANY
PEOPLE!

AHH!!
NO
WONDER
I CAN'T
GET
INTO A
SPRING
MOOD!

Y-YEAH
THAT'S
RIGHT.

WHAT
WAS
THAT
FOR!?

SO THAT
MEANS
THERE'S
TWO
PEOPLE
TOO MANY
HERE,
RIGHT?

BUT IT'S TRUE,
SPRING REALLY IS
BEST WITH JUST
THREE PEOPLE...

CALM
DOWN,
PLEASE.

WE
NEED
TO!!

WE
NEED TO
GET RID
OF THE
OTHER
TWO..



WAAAAHA!

BUT FOUR OR MORE SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE JUST THERE FOR A WORK SEMINAR OR SOMETHING.

TWO PEOPLE GOING TO SEE THE SPRING CHERRY BLOSSOMS BY THEMSELVES SEEMS KINDA SAD AND LONELY...

IF THERE WAS 4, THE LAST IN THE LINE WOULD GET EATEN BY A BEAR FOR SURE.

IF YOU'RE HIKING UP A MOUNTAIN TO HAVE A PICNIC, 3 PEOPLE IS PERFECT.

THOSE FROM GROUPS WITH 3 MEMBERS ARE THE BEST.

AND WHEN IT COMES TO SONGS ABOUT SPRING,

HMM? WHAT'S WRONG, KIGU?

I KNEW IT! WE JUST NEED TO GET RID OF THE OTHER TWO!

LIHHH, I THINK YOU MIGHT BE GIVING GAN-CHAN THE WRONG IDEA HERE...

EHH?! KIGU-CHAN WHAT'S WRONG?!

SOB SOB SOB SOB

CRACK

IT CAUSED
ME TO BE
ABANDONED
BY MY BEST
FRIENDS!

B-BACK WHEN
I WAS A KID,
THERE WAS A
SONG ABOUT
HOW SPRING
MEANT A DAY
JUST FOR 3
PEOPLE...

ME AND
MY 3 BEST
FRIENDS
USED
TO PLAY
TOGETHER
EVERY
SINGLE DAY,
BUT THEN
SPRING
CAME...



WHEN
I WAS IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL,

There's
3 of us
already,
so we
can't play
with you
anymore!



Spring
means
a day
for 3
people!



3 people,
3 people,
3 people.

A day for
3 people!



We don't
need her
anymore!



Spring
means
a day
for 3
people!

THAT'S
JUST
STRAIGHT
UP
BULLY-
ING!

WHAT
THE-
THAT'S
AWFUL
!!!!

WAAAAHH





I'M
GONNA
CRUSH
ALL
BULLIES
INTO THE
GROUND!

ALL
BULLYING
MUST BE
STOPPED!



I'VE
CHANGED
MY MIND
ABOUT
SPRING!

I'M
SO
SORRY,
KIGU-
CHAN!

HER
HEART'S
IN THE
RIGHT
PLACE,
I THINK...

UHH, ISN'T
THAT KINDA
COUNTER-
PRODUCTIVE?



WE DIDN'T
MEAN TO
BRING
BACK BAD
MEMORIES
FOR YOU.

ARE
YOU OK,
KIGU-
CHAN?



I KNEW
THAT
SONG WAS
BEFORE
YOUR TIME.

AH.

THE TRUTH
IS, THAT
WAS JUST
SOMETHING
THAT
HAPPENED
TO THE
AUTHOR
WHEN HE
WAS A KID.

YOU'D
THINK
THAT
WOULD'VE
BEEN
TRAUMATIC
FOR ME
BUT...

I-IT'S
OK.



FROM NOW
ON, WE'LL
WRITE SPRING
LIKE THIS...

ANYWAY
I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF
THIS "THREE
PERSON DAY"
SPRING
BULLSHIT.

春 五 人 日

Five
Person
Day





罍

四 人 日
Four Person Day



IS
COMPLETELY
FORBIDDEN.

春

CHANGING
THE KANJI
FOR SPRING,

A STORY ABOUT
A GROUP OF 4
FRIENDS JUST
HANGING OUT
WHEN ALL OF
A SUDDEN
THEY SEE AN
OWL LOOKING
OVER THEM.



YOU
KNOW, I'M
SURE I'VE
HEARD OF
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS
HAPPENING
BEFORE...

DID
MARI-SAN
MENTION
SOMETHING
ABOUT
OWLS?



UMMMM,
BEFORE
SHE
TURNED
ALL
WEIRD,

WOULD
THEY
BE IN
DANGER
TOO?



AND IT
LOOKS FOR
GROUPS OF
4 PEOPLE!?
THAT'S
TERRIFYING!
WHAT ABOUT
PEOPLE JUST
TRYING TO
PLAY A
GAME OF
MAHJONG?

PEOPLE
WENT
INSANE
JUST
FROM
LOOKING
AT IT!?



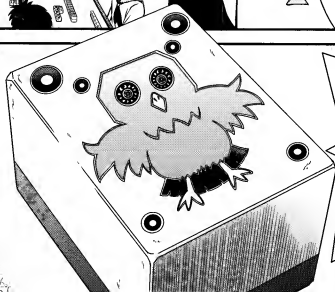
SO THAT'S
WHY PEOPLE
TURN
STRANGE
IN SPRING!



AS SOON
AS THEY SAW
THE OWL,
THEY ALL
WENT
COMPLETELY
MAD!



CORRECT,
IF FOUR
PEOPLE PLAY
MAHJONG
TOGETHER...



THEY
MIGHT
END UP
DRAWING
THIS TILE.

AND ALSO,
WE NEED
TO MAKE
SURE THAT
EVERY
PHRASE
THAT HAS
"SPRING"
IN IT IS
ALSO AN
ACTIVITY
DONE BY
3 PEOPLE!



FROM NOW
ON WE HAVE
TO MAKE
SURE THAT
EVERY
ACTIVITY
DONE IN
SPRING IS
DONE BY 3
PEOPLE!

IT COULD
JUST BE A
FOREIGN
TILE!



NO!
I SAW
THE
OWL
TOO?!

JUST
LIKE
LOOSE
EDUCATION!



3 PEOPLE
HAVE TO
ACHIEVE
THE EXACT
SAME
GOAL...

HAS TO
BECOME
"THREE
PERSON
FIRST"
DAY!



FOR
EXAMPLE,
THE NAME
OF THE
FIRST
STORM
OF THE
SEASON,
"SPRING'S
FIRST",



OH,
BUT
THEY
CAN...

SURELY
THEY CAN'T
ADD A
THIRD
PERSON
INTO
THAT!!



WHAT
ABOUT THE
SPRING
SUMO
WRESTLING
TOURNAMENT?!



RIGHT,
RIGHT!



A LOOSE
EDUCATION
STORM?
SO LIKE
WHAT,
"A LUKE-
WARM
WIND
BLOWS"?



HEY THEY'VE
DONE THEIR
BEST TO
CLEAN UP
THE SPORT,
YOU KNOW!
DON'T JUST
THROW
RUMOURS
AROUND!



FIXED
MATCHES
NEED A
THIRD
PERSON,
RIGHT?



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



AT LEAST
THEIR FRAUD
WAS ONLY
LIMITED TO
3 SINGLE
PEOPLE..

MEMBERS OF
THE THREE BIG
UNION PARTIES,
TRYING TO
FORCE YOU
TO JOIN THEIR
CAUSE BY
ANY MEANS
NECESSARY!



IN THE
SPRING
WAGE
OFFENSIVE,
THE REALLY
OFFENSIVE
PART IS...

YOU
DO,
HUH?

I JUST
WANNA
ENJOY
MY
YOUTH!

THE
SPRING-
TIME OF
YOUTH?!
WHAT
HAPPENS
WITH
THAT?!

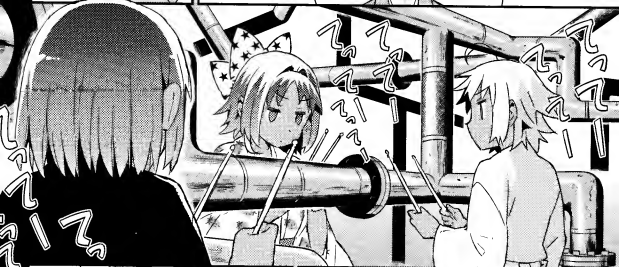
WHAT
ABOUT
ADOLESC-
ENCE?



SO WHAT WE
NEED IS A
THREE-MAN
BLUE-MAN
GROUP!



ADOLESCENCE
IS SPELT WITH
THE KANJI
FOR "BLUE"
AND "SPRING",
RIGHT?



AH,
BUT OF
COURSE!

WHAT ABOUT
"SPRING
PICTURES"?
YOU KNOW,
SHUNGA,
THOSE OLD
PORNO-
GRAPHIC
WOODBLOCK
PRINTS?

WOULD
MAKE
YOU
FEEL
SO
YOUNG!

WHO
KNEW THAT
PAINTING
YOUR
FACE
BLUE,

I
FEEL
LIKE
A KID
AGAIN!

THEN
IT ISN'T
A REAL
SHUNGA!



IF A
SHUNGA
DOESN'T
SHOW A
THREE-
SOME...



IF YOU
TAKE IT TO
BE ABOUT
3 PEOPLE
INSTEAD OF
SPRING, THE
LYRICS TAKE
ON A WHOLE
DIFFERENT
MEANING!

Some songs clearly come from
spring, some clearly come from
the little flower girl who's taking
her first few steps.
Slowly putting on a pair of red sandals
she wants to climb outside...
But she can't go out there yet
because of all the heavy snow.

WHAT ABOUT
THAT OLD
NURSERY
RHYME,
"SPRING
PLEASE
COME!"?

I CAN
SEE 3
HUGE
"SPRING
FLOW-
ERS"
RIGHT
THERE.



BIG?
YOU
CAN
SAY
THAT
AGAIN...



PEOPLE IN
THE EDO
PERIOD
WERE
REALLY
BIG ON
PORN,
HUH.

IT'S ABOUT
A RAPIDLY
AWAKENING
MONSTER
THAT NEEDS
3 PEOPLE
TO DEFEAT
IT!



"MII-
CHAN
TAKES
HER
FIRST
FEW
STEPS"

IT'S
ASKING
FOR 3
PEOPLE
TO
COME
QUICK!



"SPRING,
SPRING,
PLEASE
COME
SOON!"



M-M-
MAGI-
CIAN'S
RED!?

RED
SANDALS?
STAND?
RED
STAND!?



SLOWLY
PUTTING ON
HER RED
SANDALS
AND TRYING
TO STAND...



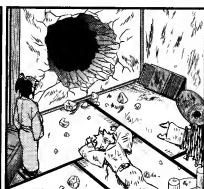
WE
HAVE
TO
STOP
HER!



WE 3
HAVE
BEEN
CHOSEN!



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Yasu's
comment

KIGU-CHAN HAS A CAREFREE, OPTIMISTIC PERSONALITY, LIKE AN OLD ANIME CHARACTER FROM THE 90S. YOU DON'T REALLY SEE CHARACTERS LIKE HER ANYMORE THESE DAYS, HAPPY-GO-LUCKY TYPES WITH MASSIVE AHOGES AND NEON-COLOURED HAIR. SHE'S A REALLY EXPRESSIVE AND EMOTIONAL CHARACTER, THERE'S BEEN PANELS WHERE I'VE HAD TO PUT IN EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO TRY AND CAPTURE THIS SIDE OF HER PROPERLY.

SHE'S USUALLY BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL, BUT SOMETIMES SHE HAS A DIFFERENT, DARKER SIDE TO HER. THOUGH NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS SCHEMING, BLACK-HEARTED NATURE OF HERS SLOWLY FADED AWAY.



TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

I HATE THE KANJI FOR SPRING

TITLE (春の字嫌い - SHUN NO JI KIRAI) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY しの字嫌い (SHI NO JI GIRAI - I HATE THE KANJI FOR DEATH).

THE STORY REVOLVES AROUND A QUICK-WITTED AND ACERBIC SERVANT (GONSUKE) AND THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE THAT HE SERVES.

AFTER A SMALL QUIBBLE WITH EACH OTHER, THE HEAD DEVISES A PLAN TO KNOCK HIS SERVANT DOWN A PEG, AND COMES UP WITH A WORD GAME INVOLVING THE KANJI FOR DEATH, SHI (し OR 死). THEY EACH HAD TO GUESS WHETHER THE OTHER WAS GOING TO SAY A WORD THAT STARTED WITH SHI, OR しじる (SHIKUJIRU - TO FAIL/BLUNDER).

IF GONSUKE WINS, HE GETS A BONUS TO HIS SALARY, IF THE HEAD WINS, HE DOESN'T HAVE TO PAY GONSUKE FOR A YEAR. THE HEAD GOES FIRST AND SAYS A WORD BEGINNING WITH SHI, HOWEVER THINGS DON'T GO QUITE TO PLAN...

CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH APRIL 2013.

TITLE PAGE:

THIS IS A REFERENCE TO JAPANESE FOLKLORE HERO KINTARO (GOLDEN BOY). A CHILD WITH SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH RAISED IN THE MOUNTAINS, HE IS OFTEN PICTURED WEARING A HARAGAKE JAPANESE APRON, CARRYING AN AXE AND RIDING A TAME BEAR. THE KANJI ON MARIU'S APRON SAYS "GOLD".

PAGE 1:

"IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS, THE KANJI FOR SPRING."

KANJI (漢字) IS THE NAME OF THE CHINESE CHARACTERS USED IN THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE. THERE ARE 2,136 KANJI IN COMMON USE IN JAPAN, ALONG WITH ANOTHER 1,000 OR SO THAT ARE RARER, OR WHICH ARE USED ONLY IN NAMES.

KANJI ARE MADE UP OF SMALLER, BUILDING BLOCK-LIKE PARTS, KNOWN AS "RADICALS", OF WHICH THERE ARE 214. WHAT YOU SEE IN THIS CHAPTER IS THE KANJI FOR SPRING (春 - HARU) BEING BROKEN DOWN INTO THE COMPONENTS, 三 (SAN) - "THREE", 人 (HITO) - "PERSON/HUMAN" AND 日 (HI) - "DAY/SUN".

THE KANJI THAT APPEAR LATER IN THIS CHAPTER, THE ONES MODIFIED WITH DIFFERENT NUMBERS, ARE NOT REAL KANJI.

PAGE 3:

"IF YOU'RE HIKING UP A MOUNTAIN TO HAVE A PICNIC, 3 PEOPLE IS PERFECT."

CHARACTERS HERE ARE FROM ENCOURAGEMENT OF CLIMB, A MANGA BY SHIRO.

"WHEN IT COMES TO SONGS ABOUT SPRING, THOSE FROM GROUPS WITH 3 MEMBERS ARE THE BEST."

UPPER RIGHT GROUP IS CANDIES, FAMOUS FOR THEIR SONG HARU ICHIBAN (SPRING'S FIRST BREEZE) RELEASED IN 1976. LOWER LEFT GROUP IS HYSTERIC BLUE, FAMOUS FOR THEIR SONG HARU-SPRING~ RELEASED IN 1999.

PAGE 4:

"B-BACK WHEN I WAS A KID, THERE WAS A SONG ABOUT HOW SPRING MEANT A DAY JUST FOR 3 PEOPLE... IT CAUSED ME TO BE ABANDONED BY MY BEST FRIENDS!"

REFERENCE TO SONG "HARU RA! RA! RA!" BY ISHINO MAKO RELEASED IN 1980. THE LYRICS FOR THE SONG REFERENCE THE FACT THAT YOU CAN BREAK DOWN THE KANJI FOR SPRING INTO "3 PERSON DAY".

PAGE 5:

"THE TRUTH IS, THAT WAS JUST SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED TO THE AUTHOR WHEN HE WAS A KID."

KUMETA WAS BORN IN 1967, HARU RA! RA! RA! AS MENTIONED ABOVE WAS RELEASED IN 1980.

PAGE 6:

"IT'S TEARING ITSELF APART BEFORE MY EYES!"

KUKURU IS REFERENCING "GESTALTZERFALL", A PHENOMENON IN WHICH PROLONGED VIEWING OF A SHAPE (AND PARTICULARLY KANJI) CAUSE IT TO "COME APART" IN YOUR MIND, LOSING ALL MEANING UNTIL IT EFFECTIVELY BECOMES JUST A WEIRD SHAPE.

IT'S VERY SIMILAR TO "SEMANTIC SATIATION", IN WHICH SAYING THE SAME WORD OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN CAUSES IT TO LOSE MEANING TO THE PERSON SAYING IT UNTIL IT BECOMES JUST AN ODD, REPEATED SOUND.



PAGE 7:
"NO NO NO! I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS! IF I LOOK AT THAT OWL I'LL DIE!"
REFERENCE TO MANGA "JAGAN WA GACHIRIN NI TOBU" (THE WICKED EYE FLIES TO THE NEW MOON), BY FUJITA KAZUHIRO. IN THE MANGA, GODS SEND AN OWL NAMED MINERVA TO EARTH, AND EVERYONE THAT SEES IT OR ENTERS ITS GAZE IS KILLED. THIS IS POTENTIALLY ALSO A REFERENCE TO VARIOUS BITS OF FOLKLORE SURROUNDING OWLS. ANCIENT ROMANS SAW THEM AS HARBINGERS OF DEATH, PARTICULARLY IF THEY HOOTED ON YOUR ROOF OR DROPPED A FEATHER NEAR YOU WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING.

PAGE 8:
"SO THAT'S WHY PEOPLE TURN STRANGE IN SPRING!"
KIGU IS REFERENCING "GOGATSU-BYOU", OR MAY SICKNESS. IT'S BEEN REFERENCED IN JOSHIRAKU BEFORE. IT'S A WAVE OF SICKNESS AND MALAISE THAT SWEEPS JAPAN, DUE TO CHANGING LIGHT LEVELS AND VASTLY VARYING TEMPERATURES AND A WHOLE MYRIAD OF OTHER CAUSES THAT OCCUR DURING THE SEASON CHANGE FROM WINTER TO SPRING.

"CORRECT, IF FOUR PEOPLE PLAY MAHJONG TOGETHER..."
CHARACTERS IN THIS PANEL:
SHIGERU AKAGI FROM "AKAGI: THE GENIUS WHO DESCENDED INTO DARKNESS", A MANGA BY FUKUMOTO NOBUYUKI.
SAKI MIYANAGA FROM "SAKI", A MANGA BY KOBAYASHI RITSU.
ASADA TETSUYA FROM "LEGENDARY GAMBLER TETSUYA", BY FUMEI SAI AND YASUSHI HOSHINO.
ALL OF THESE MANGA FEATURE MAHJONG PROMINENTLY.

PAGE 9:
"NO! I SAW THE OWL TOO?!" "IT COULD JUST BE A FOREIGN TILE!"
TRADITIONALLY IN MAHJONG, THE FIRST TILE OF THE BAMBOO SUIT (HISOU) PORTRAYS A BIRD, TYPICALLY A PEAFOWL OR A REPRESENTATION OF THE JAPANESE FIREBIRD GODDESS CALLED "HOOU". HOWEVER AS MAHJONG SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD, OTHER IMAGES HAVE APPEARED ON THIS TILE, INCLUDING CRANES, PANDAS, ORCHIDS AND OF COURSE, OWLS.

"3 PEOPLE HAVE TO ACHIEVE THE EXACT SAME GOAL.... IT'S JUST LIKE LOOSE EDUCATION!"
SEE CHAPTER 25 FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT LOOSE EDUCATION.

"WHAT ABOUT SPRING SUMO WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS!? SURELY THEY CAN'T ADD A THIRD PERSON INTO THOSE!"
REFERENCE TO HARU BASHO, A HUGE SUMO WRESTLING TOURNAMENT, HELD IN MARCH.

"FIXED MATCHES NEED A THIRD PERSON, RIGHT?"
REFERENCE TO A HUGE SUMO MATCH FIXING SCANDAL THAT EMERGED IN 2011.

PAGE 10:
"IN THE SPRING WAGE OFFENSIVE, THE REALLY OFFENSIVE PART IS... FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE THREE BIG UNION PARTIES, TRYING TO FORCE YOU TO JOIN THEIR CAUSE BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY!"

REFERENCE TO 春闘 (SHUNTOU - SPRING OFFENSIVE), IN WHICH EMPLOYEES OF A COMPANY WILL NEGOTIATE THEIR WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS. THINGS CAN GET HEATED UNTIL A SATISFACTORY RESULT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED. USUALLY THE BIGGEST COMPANIES IN JAPAN WILL SET THE BAR FOR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS, IF A COMPANY SUCH AS MITSUBISHI AGREES A 3% PAY RISE, THEN MOST OTHER COMPANIES WILL FOLLOW SUIT WITH A SIMILAR OR EQUAL DEAL. OBVIOUSLY THIS WHOLE PROCESS IS OVERSEEN AND PARTICIPATED IN BY WORKER UNIONS, WHICH TEND TO SUPPORT ONE OF THE MAIN THREE LEFT-WING POLITICAL PARTIES IN JAPAN, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE COMMUNIST PARTY OR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. OFTEN MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT PARTIES WILL TRY AND GET YOU TO JOIN THEIR OWN PARTY IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN IT, AND IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR PEOPLE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD FROM IN YEARS CONTACTING YOU OUT OF THE BLUE FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF TRYING TO GET YOU TO JOIN EITHER THEIR UNION OR POLITICAL PARTY. THERE HAVE BEEN OCCASIONS WHERE PARTY MEMBERS WOULD SIGN UP PEOPLE TO JOIN WITHOUT THEIR PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OR SIGNING THEM UP WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT.



WHAT ABOUT ADOLESCENCE? THE SPRINGTIME OF YOUTH?! WHAT HAPPENS THERE?!"
青春 (SEISHUN) MEANS "THE SPRINGTIME OF YOUTH" (ADOLESCENCE) BUT LITERALLY MEANS "BLUE SPRING", AS IT IS SPELT WITH THE KANJI FOR BLUE (青 - AO) AND SPRING (春).

"SO WHAT WE NEED IS A THREE-MAN BLUE-MAN GROUP!"

THE BLUE MAN GROUP IS A PERFORMANCE ART COMPANY, FORMED IN 1991. THE PERFORMERS PAINT THEIR FACES BLUE, AND PERFORM MUSICAL AND ACROBATIC STUNTS.

"WHAT ABOUT "SPRING PICTURES"? YOU KNOW, SHUNGA, THOSE OLD PORNOGRAPHIC WOODBLOCK PRINTS?"

SHUNGA IS THE NAME GIVEN TO WOODBLOCK PRINTED PORNOGRAPHY, DUE TO "SPRING" BEING A COMMON EUPHEMISM FOR SEX IN THE EDO PERIOD. ALMOST ALL OF THE FAMOUS WOODBLOCK ARTISTS OF THE DAY WORKED ON SHUNGA AT SOME POINT IN THEIR CAREER. THE PERSONS DEPICTED WERE USUALLY ALWAYS FULLY CLOTHED, NOT OUT OF ANY MEASURE OF CENSORSHIP OR DECENCY (AS NUILITY WAS NOT INHERENTLY SEXUAL IN EDO PERIOD JAPAN), BUT TO DISTINGUISH TO THE VIEWER THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE SHUNGA WERE FOREIGNERS, OR RICH ETC.

PAGE 11:

"PEOPLE IN THE EDO PERIOD WAS CERTAINLY BIG ON PORN, HUH."

SHUNGA WERE VERY POPULAR INDEED IN EDO PERIOD JAPAN, THEY WERE OFTEN SEEN AS GOOD LUCK CHARMS, AS WELL AS PRESENTS AND HOUSEHOLD DECORATIONS ETC.,

SECONDLY, THE DEPICTION OF GENITALS IN SHUNGA WAS ALSO TYPICALLY GREATLY EXAGGERATED, A TRAIT THAT CONFUSED EARLY WESTERN TRAVELLERS TO JAPAN.

"I CAN SEE 3 HUGE "SPRING FLOWERS" RIGHT THERE."

A KIND OF UNTRANSLATABLE WORDPLAY AND KANJI PUN, THIS TIME ON THE WORD "春菊" (SHUNGIKU), WHICH IS THE WORD FOR "GARLAND CHRYSANTHEMUM", BUT TRANSLATES DIRECTLY TO "SPRING CHRYSANTHEMUM". THE JOKE COMES FROM THE KANJI FOR CHRYSANTHEMUM (菊 - KIKU) BEING USED IN VARIOUS SLANG TERMS FOR "ANUS" ON THE INTERNET, DUE TO ITS VISUAL SIMILARITY TO ONE.

"AND WHAT ABOUT THAT OLD NURSERY RHYME, "SPRING PLEASE COME!?"

IF YOU TAKE IT TO BE ABOUT 3 PEOPLE INSTEAD OF SPRING, THE LYRICS TAKE ON A WHOLE DIFFERENT MEANING!"

REFERENCE TO JAPANESE NURSERY RHYME, 春よ来い - HARU YO, KOI, WRITTEN BY SOUMASHOYOFUJI, WHOSE LYRICS GO:

"SPRING, SPRING, PLEASE COME SOON!"

SPRING, SPRING, PLEASE COME SOON.

MY LITTLE MII-CHAN¹ JUST STARTS TAKING HER FIRST FEW STEPS,

SLOWLY² PUTTING ON A PAIR OF RED SANDALS SHE WANTS TO STAND OUTSIDE,

BUT SHE CAN'T GO OUT THERE JUST YET BECAUSE OF ALL THE HEAVY SNOW."

"RED SANDALS? STAND? RED STAND!?" "M-M-MAGICIAN'S RED!?"

REFERENCE TO "JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE", A MANGA SERIES BY HIROHIKO ARAKI.

MAGICIAN'S RED IS A STAND USED BY CHARACTER MUHAMMAD AVDOOL, WHICH APPEARS AS A HUMANOID FIGURE WITH A BIRD-LIKE HEAD (EXPLAINING THE FIRST PANEL OF THE NEXT PAGE) AND GRANTS THE USER THE ABILITY TO CONTROL FIRE. ARAKI AND KUMETA ARE FANS OF EACH OTHERS' WORK, AND HAVE BOTH BEEN SUBJECT TO THE SAME JOKE OF HAVING AN OUTWARD APPEARANCE THAT HASN'T CHANGED IN 3 DECADES.

PAGE 12:

100 PERSON DAY - YURI

YURI IS A SUBGENRE OF MANGA AND ANIME THAT FOCUSES ON ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GIRLS.

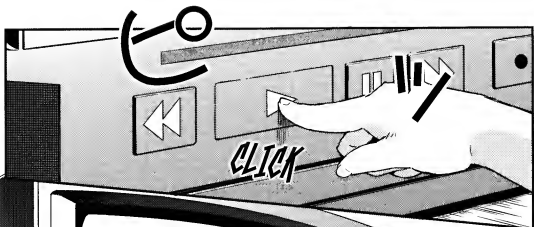


¹: MII-CHAN WAS BASED ON SOUMASHOYOFUJI'S ELDEST DAUGHTER, FUMIKO.

²: THE WORD USED HERE IS "じよろろ" WHICH MEANS SLOWLY AND FALTERINGLY, AND IS PRONOUNCED "JOJO".

じょしらく JOSHIRAKU

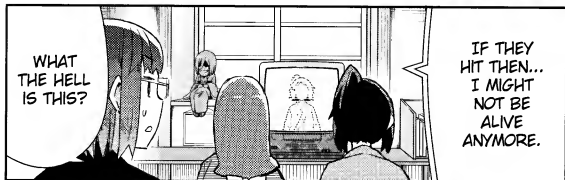






MAYBE
THE
MISSILES
HIT,

OR
MAYBE
THEY
DIDN'T.



WHAT
THE HELL
IS THIS?

IF THEY
HIT THEN...
I MIGHT
NOT BE
ALIVE
ANYMORE.



AND
ALSO...

I KNOW
IT WAS
UNLIKELY
BUT IT
WAS JUST
IN CASE.



WHAT IF
I HAD
DIED?!
NOBODY
WOULD'VE
KNOWN
WHAT I
WANTED
TO SAY!!



I JUST
THOUGHT I
SHOULD MAKE
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS,
YOU KNOW,
FOR PEACE
OF MIND.

JUST HOW
STUPID
ARE YOU?
NOTHING
WAS EVER
GONNA
HAPPEN...



WELL
THEY DO
SAY THAT
DEAD MEN
TELL NO
TALES.

THAT'S
NOT
ALL...

HAS
MADE
INNOCENT
PEOPLE
INTO
CRIMI-
NALS!

RIGHT!
THERE HAVE
BEEN TIMES
WHEN THE
DEAD BEING
UNABLE TO
SPEAK UP
AGAINST
SLANDER,

TO BE A
LITTLE...
SHOCKING.

IF YOU
ENTER
A STRANGE,
UNKNOWN
RELIGION AND
DIE, SINCE YOU
CAN'T SPEAK
OUT AGAINST IT,
YOU MIGHT FIND
THE FUNERAL
THEY THROW
FOR YOU,

TO
RECORD
HOW YOU'D
LIKE YOUR
LIFE TO
END.

ANYWAY,
I THINK IT'S
IMPORTANT,

I DON'T
THINK
THAT'D
EVER
HAPPEN.

LIKE, THEY'D
FORCE YOU
INTO HAVING A
SKY BURIAL OR
SOMETHING!?
THAT'S
TERRIFYING!

THAT'S
WHY
"ENDING
NOTES"
ARE SO
POPULAR
THESE
DAYS.

Ending Note

ENDING NOTE 000000 000000

ENDING NOTE 000000 000000

すっ

Ending Note

ENDING NOTE 000000 000000

IT'S NOT ABOUT
HOW YOU WANT
THINGS TO BE
AFTER YOU DIE.
IT'S MORE OF A
DOCUMENT ON HOW
YOU FEEL ABOUT
THE END AS IT
APPROACHES, AND
HOW YOU WANT THE
END OF YOUR LIFE
TO BE HANDLED.

"ENDING
NOTE"?
WHAT'S
THAT?
LIKE A LAST
WILL OR
TESTAMENT
OR SOME-
THING?

SO HOW
DO YOU
WANT YOUR
DEATH
TO BE,
EVERYONE?

FORWARD
PLANNING,
I GUESS
YOU
COULD
CALL IT.

THAT'S KIND
OF A CRUDE
WAY OF
PUTTING IT,
BUT YES, I
SUPPOSE
SO.

SO IT'S
KINDA LIKE
WRITING
ABOUT HOW
YOU WANT
TO DIE?

THAT IS
THE IDEAL
WAY TO
GO, ISN'T
IT?

I WANT TO DIE
PEACEFULLY IN MY
SLEEP, AT HOME,
SURROUNDED BY
LOTS AND LOTS OF
CHILDREN AND
GRANDCHILDREN.

HHHHH,
LET'S
SEE...

ん

I'D LIKE
TO GO OUT
MAKING
MYSELF A
SACRIFICE
TO SAVE
SOMEONE
ELSE.

WATCH
OUT!!

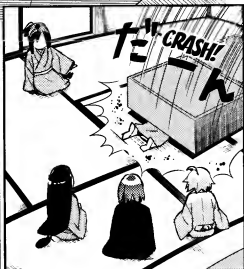
WHILE
THAT
SOUNDS
NICE,
I THINK
FOR ME...



EH?
WHY?

NO
FUCKIN'
WAY.

OH
COME
ON...





DEATH
CAN BE SO
SUDDEN.

WELL
YOU NEVER
KNOW HOW
MUCH TIME
YOU HAVE
LEFT.

AAANYWAY,
AREN'T WE ALL
STILL A LITTLE
TOO YOUNG TO
BE THINKING
ABOUT WHAT
TO PUT IN AN
ENDING NOTE?



IS IT
YOURS,
KIGU-
CHAN?

THIS
ISN'T
MINE.



NOPE.

NOT MINE
EITHER.

IT'S NOT
MINE.



EH?

IS THAT
WHY YOU
BROUGHT
THAT IN
TO SHOW
EVERYONE?



THEY'RE
INTO ALL
THE LATEST
FADS.

YEAH,
THAT
MAKES
SENSE.

OWWWW...

IT COULD
BE THE
MASTER'S.

AH!

BUT
IT WAS
RIGHT HERE
IN THE
DRESSING
ROOM.



LEMMIE
SEE!
LEMMIE
SEE!

STOP
IT!!



LET'S
TAKE A
LOOK...

WHAT
DOES
IT SAY
INSIDE?



AHHHHH!!

WHAT
DOES
IT SAY?

AHHH!
I SEE...



HAS TO
CARRY
OUT
WHATEVER
LAST
WISHES
ARE
WRITTEN
INSIDE!!

ANYONE
THAT
LOOKS AT
WHAT AN
ENDING
NOTE
SAYS...

THAT'S
LIKE THE
WHOLE
POINT OF
THE NOTE
IN THE
FIRST
PLACE!

WASN'T
THAT
OBVIOUS
!?!?

R-R-R
REALLY
!?!?

EH?



THEN IT MEANS
THAT THE GOD
OF DEATH,
SHINIGAMI,
WILL COME AND
DO WHATEVER
HE WANTS!

WELL SINCE
IT'S KIND
OF LIKE A
PRE-EMPTIVE
DEATH NOTE
...

WHAT IF
WE JUST
IGNORE
IT?

WELL,
SINCE THIS
IS OUR
MASTER'S
ENDING
NOTE...

WHAT
DO WE
DO!?

ISN'T IT
MORE LIKE
A FUTURE
DIARY IN
REVERSE?!

A PRE-
EMPTIVE
DEATH
NOTE?!

WE'LL JUST
HAVE TO TRY
AND FOLLOW
IT AS BEST
WE CAN!

THE DEATH
METHOD
WRITTEN
IN HERE...

WHAT THE
HELL ARE
YOU EVEN
TALKING
ABOUT,
GAN?

WE
NEED
TO GET
A BOAT.

STEP 1

Get a Boat.

FIRST
OFF,

OH MY GOD,
THIS IS
SUCH A
PAIN IN
THE ASS!

MAYBE
THEY WANT
THEIR
ASHES
SCATTERING
INTO THE
OCEAN.

WHAT A
SHOW-
OFF
SEND-OFF.

TO USE
INSTEAD
OF A
COFFIN,
MAYBE?

WHY A
BOAT?

AHH!
THAT'S
AMAZING,
GAN-
CHAN!

I CALLED IN
A FAVOUR
FROM AN
OLD FRIEND,
I GOT US
A BOAT.

WE
DON'T
WANT
SHINIGAMI
TO
COME
HERE!

WE HAVE
TO DO
THIS
PROPER-
LY!

I
GOT
ONE!

MAYBE SO
THEY DON'T
GET LOST
WANDERING
THE STREETS
OF THE
LAND OF
THE DEAD?

A
MAP?
BUT WHY?

NEXT
IT SAYS
WE HAVE
TO GET
A MAP.

WELL, I
GUESS IF
WE HAVE
TO DO
THINGS
PROPERLY
...

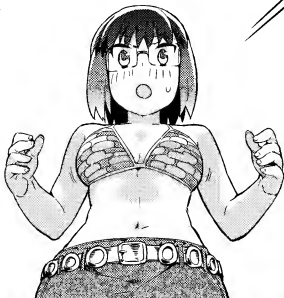
FOR THE
MOURNING
DRESS
MAYBE?

THERE'S
SOME
CLOTHING
PATTERNS
IN HERE,
TOO.

TO GO
TO THE
FUNERAL?

NOW IT
SAYS WE
ALL HAVE
TO GET UP
AND LEAVE.

TA-DA!



WERE THEY
ALREADY
HALF-DEAD
WHEN THEY
WROTE THIS
OR SOME-
THING?

WHERE?
THE RIVER
STYX?

NOW WE
HAVE TO
SET OFF
ON A
VOYAGE.

WHAT
NEXT?

I LOOK
LIKE A
FARMER!

TH-THIS IS
WAY TOO
REVEALING
TO BE A
MOURNING
DRESS!

OOHH!
I
SEE!!

OOKI
OOKI

HMM,
HMM!

I DIDN'T
EXPECT
THAT TO
HAPPEN!

AHH, THIS
IS GETTING
REALLY
EXCITING!

LET'S
SEE
....

NOW
WHAT
DO WE
DO?

And they all
lived happily
ever after.

The End

Finally
they
had the
treasure,

UUUUHH...

AHH,
WHAT A
GREAT
ENDING!

THIS IS
JUST THE
ENDING
NOTE TO
ANOTHER
MANGA!

WAIT A
MINUTE!

YEP.
THEY
EXIST
ALRIGHT.

THERE
ARE REALLY
AUTHORS OUT
THERE WHO
DECIDE HOW
THEIR MANGA
IS GOING TO
END WHILE
IT'S STILL
GOING!?

EHHH?

IT'S
NOT OUR
MASTER'S
ENDING
NOTE AT
ALL.

THIS IS
ALL JUST
REFERENCE
NOTES ON
WHAT TO DO
FOR THAT
MANGA'S
ENDING!!

THERE'S TOO
MANY GREAT
WORKS OUT
THERE THAT
FINISHED
WITHOUT A
PROPER
ENDING
BECAUSE
THE AUTHOR
DIED.

IF AN
AUTHOR
DOESN'T
WRITE AN
ENDING NOTE,
IT CAN
BE A HUGE
PROBLEM.

LIKE
GOLGO 13,
RIGHT?

SO THEY MAKE
AN ENDING
NOTE AT THE
VERY START
SO THEY KNOW
WHERE THE
PLOT'S GOING
TO GO.

WHEN A
MANGAKA
STARTS A
STORY, THEY
MIGHT HAVE
NO IDEA HOW
LONG IT'S
GONNA GO
ON FOR...

A
BEGIN-
NING-
ENDING
NOTE!

IN
OTHER
WORDS...

SOMETHING
THAT SAYS
HOW EVERY-
THING IS GONNA
GO FROM THE
VERY START.
HMM...

IF NOT
YOU COULD
END UP
WITH JUST
ANOTHER
UNFINISHED
MASTER-
PIECE!

YOU
HAVE TO
PLAN HOW
EVERYTHING
IS GOING TO
END RIGHT
FROM THE
START!

WHY
THERE
?!

EVERY
MANGA'S
ENDING
SHOULD BE
SEALED
DEEP DEEP
DOWN IN
THE
CELLARS
OF THE
VATICAN!

A
BEGINNING-
ENDING NOTE
FORETELLS
HOW A MANGA
WILL END,
RIGHT FROM
THE VERY
START!

JUST LIKE
HOW THE
DEAD SEA
SCROLLS
FORETELL THE
DESTRUCTION
OF ALL
MANKIND...

IS
SEALED
SAFELY
AWAY,
IN THE
CELLARS
OF THE
VATICAN!



RIGHT
NOW,
EVERY
MANGA'S
ENDING,

DO
BEGIN-
NING-
ENDING
NOTES
REALLY
EXIST?!

OF
COURSE,
EVERY-
ONE
MAKES
THEM
THESE
DAYS!

✱ **Kumeta's Personal Delusion.**

IT ALSO HELPS
TO STOP THE
AUTHOR FROM
BECOMING TOO
SELF-INDULGENT
AND WRITING
STUPID OVER THE
TOP PLOT TWISTS
TRYING TO KEEP
THE READERS ON
THEIR TOES!

SOMETHING
BAD
HAPPENING
TO THE
AUTHOR ISN'T
THE ONLY
REASON
ENDINGS
HAVE TO BE
SEALED
AWAY.

What
the-?
This can
never be
released
to the
world!

THERE'S
PROBABLY
SOME
ENDINGS
SO BAD
THERE,
THAT IF THE
POPE SAW
THEM, HE'D
FAINT!

I'M
HERE TO
DESTROY
IT!

THAT
ENDING
NOTE...

GIVE
THAT
NOTE
TO ME.

WHO
ARE
YOU?

AND WE HAVE
SUCCEEDED
IN CREATING
AN ARMY OF
CLONES OF
THE AUTHOR...

WE HAVE
BEEN WORKING
TIRELESSLY
FOR YEARS
USING IPS CELL
TECHNOLOGY.

WORRY NOT,
EVEN IF THE
AUTHOR DIES,
THE MANGA
SHALL
CONTINUE.

B-BUT
WHAT WILL
YOU DO IF
SOMETHING
HAPPENS
TO THE
AUTHOR?

WITH THEM,
WE CAN
MAKE THE
MANGA
CONTINUE
FOREVER!





Yasu's
comment

THIS MYSTERIOUS CHARACTER WAS MADE DUE TO A SMALL COMMUNICATION ERROR WE HAD WITH KUMETA-SENSEI. I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE ANIME!

IT WAS BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS, AND THE EDITOR AND I HAD ONLY REALIZED OUR MISTAKE THE DAY BEFORE THE MANUSCRIPT HAD TO BE HANDED IN, I REMEMBER THE COLOUR JUST DRAINED FROM OUR FACES.

LOOKING BACK ON IT THOUGH, I THINK IT WAS A HAPPY MISTAKE.



TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

INTO THE FOLDER

THE TITLE (文書入れ - BUNSHO IRE) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY 紙入れ (KAMI IRE - WALLET). THE STORY REVOLVES AROUND A VERY TIMID SHOP OWNER, SHINKICHI, WHO RECEIVES A LETTER ONE NIGHT FROM THE WIFE OF A LOCAL LORD, INVITING HIM TO VISIT HER AS HER HUSBAND HAS GONE AWAY ON A TRIP, AND SHE IS FEELING LONELY. TERRIFIED AT THE THOUGHT, HE PUTS THE LETTER IN HIS WALLET, AND VISITS HER OUT OF NOT WANTING TO BE PERCEIVED AS DISRESPECTING HER. THE WOMAN GETS VERY DRUNK AND SNUGGLES UP TO HIM, BUT THEY ARE INTERRUPTED BY A LOUD KNOCKING AT THE DOOR, THE HUSBAND HAS RETURNED. SHINKICHI MANAGES TO ESCAPE OUT THE BACK ENTRANCE AND RUNS BACK HOME. AFTER A WHILE HE REALIZES THAT HE LEFT HIS WALLET, A GIFT FROM THE LORD, AND THE INCRIMINATING LETTER BACK AT THE LORD'S HOME. SHINKICHI PANICS AND RACKS HIS BRAIN TRYING TO FIND THE BEST PLAN, AFTER COMING UP WITH NOTHING, HOWEVER, HE DECIDES TO BITE THE BULLET AND VISIT THE LORD... CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH MAY 2013.

TITLE PAGE:

THE FONT USED FOR "JOSHIRAKU", AND KIOU'S POSE IS A REFERENCE TO ONE PIECE.

PAGE 2:

"MAYBE THE MISSILES HIT, OR MAYBE THEY DIDN'T."

REFERRING TO NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR TESTING AND THE CONTINUED TENSION FROM THE REGION.

PANEL 2:

THE DOLL IS OF MIKASA ACKERMAN, FROM "ATTACK ON TITAN".

PAGE 3:

"DEAD PEOPLE BEING UNABLE TO SPEAK UP AGAINST SLANDER HAS MADE INNOCENT PEOPLE INTO CRIMINALS!"

THIS SORT OF THING HAPPENS FREQUENTLY, BUT THE ONE THAT WAS IN THE JAPANESE MEDIA WHEN THIS CHAPTER WAS WRITTEN IS AN INCIDENT IN WHICH A MAN WAS ACCUSED OF STEALING BY A WOMAN IN A CONVENIENCE STORE, AND WHO DIED WHILST BEING APPREHENDED BY THE POLICE AND THE STOREKEEPER.

AFTERWARDS IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE MAN WAS NOT STEALING AT ALL, AND THE POLICE HAD TO PAY HIS FAMILY REPARATIONS. THE WOMAN WHO ACCUSED HIM OF STEALING RAN AWAY AND HER IDENTITY IS STILL UNKNOWN.

"THEY FORCE YOU INTO HAVING A SKY BURIAL!?"

A SKY BURIAL IS A TYPE OF FUNERAL PRACTISED BY TIBETAN BUDDHISTS.

THE PROCESS INVOLVES LEAVING DEAD BODIES EXPOSED TO THE ELEMENTS ON A MOUNTAINTOP, SO THAT BIRDS SUCH AS VULTURES CAN EAT THE MEAT, AND THE BONES AND OTHER LEFTOVERS CAN ROT AWAY AND RETURN TO THE SOIL.

TIBETAN BUDDHISTS BELIEVE THAT ONCE A PERSON IS DEAD, THE BODY IS AN EMPTY VESSEL WITH NO MEANING, AND SO INSTEAD OF "WASTING IT" BY BURIAL OR CREMATION, THE BODY IS RETURNED TO NATURE.

PAGE 4:

"THAT'S WHY ENDING NOTES ARE SO POPULAR THESE DAYS."

ENDING NOTES ARE A REAL THING IN JAPAN, AS WELL AS KOREA, AND ARE AS TETORA DESCRIBES, A SORT OF DIARY AND DIRECTIVE ON HOW YOUR DEATH SHOULD BE HANDLED. THE 2011 FILM, "DEATH OF A JAPANESE SALESMAN" IS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS.

PAGE 7:

"WELL, SINCE IT'S KIND OF LIKE A PRE-EMPTIVE DEATH NOTE..."

"DEATH NOTE" IS A SERIES WRITTEN BY OHBA TSUGUMI. THE TITULAR DEATH NOTE IS A NOTEBOOK IN WHICH IF YOU WRITE A PERSON'S NAME, THEY WILL DIE. YOU CAN ALSO STIPULATE THE DETAILS OF HOW YOU WANT THEM TO DIE.

"ISN'T IT MORE LIKE A FUTURE DIARY IN REVERSE?!"

"FUTURE DIARY" OR "MIRAI NIKKI" IS A SERIES WRITTEN BY ESUNO SAKAE.

THE TITULAR FUTURE DIARY IS A DIARY THAT CONTAINS ENTRIES FROM THE FUTURE, UP TO AND INCLUDING THE DETAILS OF HOW THE DIARY HOLDER WILL DIE.



PAGE 9:
"TH-THIS IS WAY TOO REVEALING TO BE A MOURNING DRESS!" "I LOOK LIKE A FARMER!"
REFERENCE TO ONE PIECE CHARACTERS, NAMI AND LUFFY.

"FINALLY THEY HAD THE TREASURE, AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER. THE END."
"ONE PIECE" IS A MANGA BY ODA EIICHIRO, WHICH HAS BEEN IN SERIALIZATION SINCE 1997.
IT CENTRES AROUND A GROUP OF CHARACTERS SEARCHING FOR THE 'ONE PIECE', WHICH IS THE WORLD'S ULTIMATE TREASURE. NONE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS ACTUALLY KNOW WHAT THIS TREASURE IS YET, HOWEVER.

PAGE 10:
"THERE ARE REALLY AUTHORS OUT THERE WHO DECIDE HOW THEIR MANGA IS GOING TO END WHILE IT'S STILL GOING!?"

THIS IS KUMETA SELF-REFERENCING HIS OTHER MANGA, SAYONARA ZETSUBOU SENSEI. THE ENDING OF THAT PARTICULAR MANGA WAS FORESHADOWED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, BUT KUMETA HAS SPOKEN IN VARIOUS PAPER BLOGS ABOUT HOW PEOPLE WOULD FREQUENTLY ASK HIM IF HE HAD PLANNED IT, AND HOW THIS QUESTION FRUSTRATED HIM.

"LIKE GOLGO 13, RIGHT?"

GOLGO 13, BY SAITO TAKAO, IS A MANGA THAT HAS BEEN RUNNING SINCE 1968. IT WAS ORIGINALLY ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE 10 VOLUMES LONG, SO TAKAO PLANNED THE ENDING IN ADVANCE. HOWEVER, 180 VOLUMES LATER, IT'S STILL GOING.

"A BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE!"

THE WORD USED HERE IS 初回文書 (SHOKAI MONJO) WHICH TRANSLATES LITERALLY TO "STARTING DOCUMENT" OR "FIRST NOTE".

"IT'S LIKE HOW THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS FORETELL THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL MANKIND!"
THEY DON'T. THEY'RE NOT STORED IN THE VATICAN ANYMORE EITHER. THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS WERE POPULAR IN JAPAN AFTER THEY FEATURED HEAVILY IN THE PLOT OF "NEON GENESIS EVANGELION". IN NGE, THE SCROLLS WERE DOCUMENTS FROM OUTER SPACE THAT HELD INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO TRIGGER THE HUMAN INSTRUMENTALITY PROJECT, WHICH, IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY, DOES DESTROY ALL MANKIND.
AT THE TIME OF NGE'S BROADCAST, THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS WERE CLASSIFIED, THEY'VE SINCE BEEN PUBLISHED.

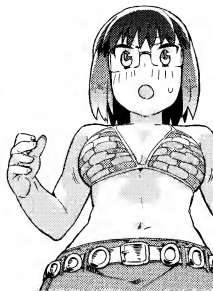
PAGE 11:
"DO BEGINNING-ENDING NOTES REALLY EXIST?!" "OF COURSE"

LIST:

- CONAN BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE
GREAT DETECTIVE CONAN, BY AOHYAMA GOSHO.
- IPPO BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE
HAJIME NO IPPO BY MORIKAWA GEORGE.
- GLASS BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE
GLASS MASK BY MIUCHI SUZUE.
- TITAN BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE
ATTACK ON TITAN, BY ISAYAMA HAJIME.
- KOCHIKAME BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE
KOCHIRA KATSUSHIKA-KU KAMEARI KOEN MAE HASHIITSUJO BY AKIMOTO OSAMU.
- HXH BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE
HUNTER x HUNTER BY TOGASHI YOSHIHIRO.
- FSS BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE
FIVE STAR STORIES BY NAGANO MAMORU.
- TERRA BEGINNING-ENDING NOTE
TERRA FORMARS BY YU SASUGA AND KENICHI TACHIBANA.

YASU'S NOTE (MASK):

THE WORD MEANING "TO HAVE THE COLOUR DRAIN FROM YOUR FACE" DUE TO ANXIETY ETC. IN JAPANESE IS 顔面蒼白 (GANMENSOUHAKU) WHICH TRANSLATES LITERALLY TO "PALE MASK", WHICH I'M GUESSING IS THE MISTAKE THAT YASU AND HIS EDITOR MADE TO CREATE MASK.



ひまわり





YOU
INSOLENT
MONGRELS
!!!!

WEARING
A YUKATA
WITHOUT
HAVING A
BATH?!!?

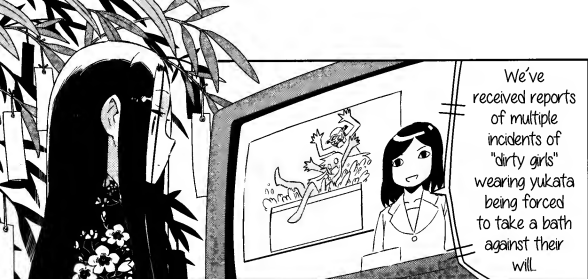
KYAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

YOU'RE
HAVING
A BATH
WHETHER
YOU WANT
ONE OR
NOT!

とぽーん
SPLASH

ざーん
SPLASH

GYA
AAAA
AAAA
AAA
AAH!



We've received reports of multiple incidents of "dirty girls" wearing yukata being forced to take a bath against their will.



YOU REALLY SHOULD TAKE A BATH BEFORE YOU PUT ON A YUKATA...

WELL...



WE BATHE EVERY SINGLE DAY!

OF COURSE WE DID!!

YOU ALL BATHED PROPERLY BEFORE PUTTING ON YOURS, RIGHT?



EVER WANT TO WEAR A YUKATA?

YEAH BUT WHY THE HELL WOULD FASHIONABLE GYARU GIRLS LIKE THAT...

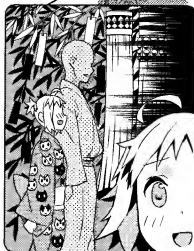
MOST PEOPLE DON'T REALLY GET MANY CHANCES TO WEAR TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CLOTHES LIKE WE DO.

WEARING A YUKATA IS THE BEST THING ABOUT TANABATA.



IT'S A
CHANCE
TO SHOW
OTHERS
A NEW
SIDE OF
YOURSELF.

WELL...



IT'S A
GREAT
OPPORTUNITY
TO SHOW
BOYS A
FRESH
NEW LOOK!

AHH,
YEAH!



EH?!

YEAH,
BUT YOU
LOOK
THE
SAME.

I-I-I
Do?

Kigu-chan,
you look so
different.

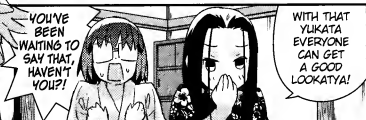


WEARING
A YUKATA
ISN'T
FRESH OR
EXCITING
FOR US!

WE HAVE
TO WEAR
A KIMONO
FOR WORK!



YUKATA ARE MADE FROM REALLY THIN FABRIC.





DRESS
LIKE THIS
INSTEAD?



IT'S A
BATH-
ROBE!

UHHHH...



A
BATH-
ROBE!

IT'S
LIKE A
WESTERN
YUKATA,
KIND OF!



AND
LET'S GO
OUT FOR
TANABATA!

ALL
RIGHT!
EVERYONE
PUT ON A
BATH-
ROBE,

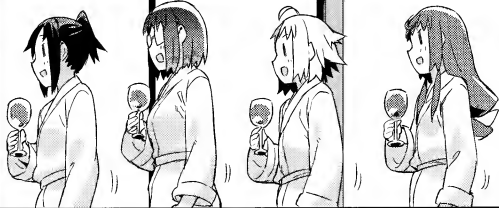
SO
FRESH
AND
EXCIT-
ING!!



THAT
REALLY
IS A NEW
LOOK!

そ" Shuffle 3

そ" Shuffle 3



W-WAIT
A MINUTE.

BUT
BOYS
WILL
CHASE
AFTER
YOU
ALL
NIGHT!

BUT IT'S
A BRAND
NEW LOOK
FOR US.

TO WEAR
A BATH-
ROBE ON
TANABATA
?!

ISN'T IT
KINDA
WEIRD,

WEARING
SLIPPERS
WOULD
BE EVEN
WEIRDER
!!!

SLIP-
PERS?

YEAH, I
GUESS
GOING
BARE-
FOOT IS
A BIT
WEIRD.

LIKE...
WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO WEAR
ON YOUR
FEET!

THERE'S
JUST
TOO MANY
PROBLEMS
!!

IF WE GO
TO TANABATA
DRESSED AS
WESTERNERS
THEN...

KUKURU-
CHAN IS
RIGHT,
THERE'S
GONNA BE
TOO MANY
PROBLEMS.



I...
DON'T
THINK
THAT'S
RIGHT,
KIGU-
CHAN...

*I am a boy.
B.Mari!*

WE'D HAVE
TO WRITE
ALL OUR
WISHES IN
ENGLISH
!!!!

IF SHE
WRITES
THAT
DOWN AS A
WISH THEN
WHO KNOWS
WHAT KIND
OF WEIRD
STUFF MIGHT
HAPPEN!

MARI-
SAN ONLY
KNOWS ONE
SENTENCE
IN ENGLISH,
"I AM A
BOY"!!

DIDN'T
YOU
STUDY
ABROAD?

I'M SO
BAD AT
ENGLISH!
I WON'T
BE ABLE TO
WISH FOR
ANYTHING!

"THE
MILKY
WAY!"

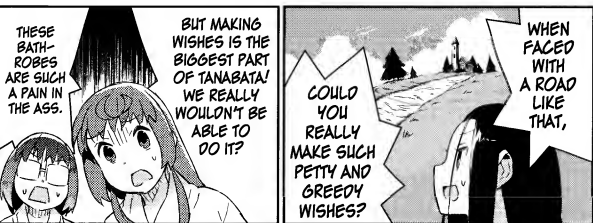
LIKE,
THE NAME
OF OUR
GALAXY IN
ENGLISH
IS..

I KNOW
MORE
ENGLISH
THAN
THAT!

O!
DON'T
MAKE
FUN
OF ME!

WHEN I
HEAR THAT,
ALL I CAN
THINK ABOUT
IS NELLO AND
PATRASCHÉ
RUNNING UP
AND DOWN
THE STREETS
SELLING MILK
IN "A DOG OF
FLANDERS".

"THE
MILKY
WAY?"
A WAY
FOR MILK?
LIKE A
MILKY
ROAD OR
SOME-
THING?



**THAT'S
DESPICABLE
AND
INSOLENT!**



**YOU HAVEN'T
BEEN IN A
WESTERN
BATHTUB
BUT YOU'RE
STILL
WEARING A
WESTERN
BATHROBE?!**

**IT'S
THESE.**



**LET ME
EXPLAIN.**

**WHAT'S
THE
DIFFER-
ENCE?**



**W-WHERE
DID YOU
GET
MARI'S
BATH
FROM?**

**SEE!
WHAT YOU
USED WAS
JUST AN
ORDINARY
JAPANESE
BATH!**

**IF IT
DOESN'T
HAVE
THOSE,
THEN IT'S
NOT A REAL
WESTERN
BATH!**

**THOSE
CAT FEET
THINGS.**



**B-BUT
I...**

**TAKE
IT OFF!
TAKE
IT OFF
NOW!**

**YOU'RE NOT
PROPERLY
QUALIFIED
TO WEAR
THAT
BATHROBE!**



Just soaking
in the water
alone will
get rid of
most dirt,
and leave
your skin
shining and
silky smooth!

(Of Your Results may differ)

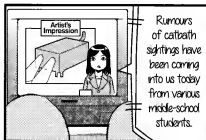
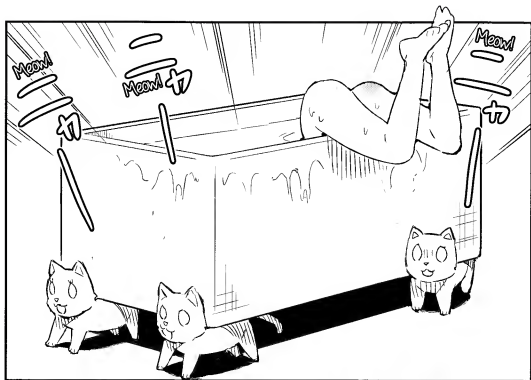


Without
any soap or
bodywash,
let yourself
soak in the
water for
at least
10 minutes

**USED TAMORI-
SENSEI'S TRIED
AND TESTED
SUPER BATHING
METHOD!**







Yasu's
comment

UZANNU HAS GOT SO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS GOING ON IN HER DESIGN THAT MAKE HER ULTRA-ANNOYING, BUT THANKS TO KUMETA-SENSEI'S WONDERFUL WRITING AND THE STRONG PERSONALITY HE GAVE HER, I HAD A HELL OF A LOT OF FUN BRINGING HER TO LIFE, AND THE ANIME EPISODE SHE WAS IN WAS GREAT TOO.

SHE'S A VERY UNLUCKY GIRL, BUT I LOVE HER.

HER CLOTHES WERE PRETTY MUCH LEFT UP TO ME, SO I DECIDED TO GIVE HER HAKAMA INSTEAD OF THE NORMAL KIMONO.
NO REAL REASON FOR IT, I JUST THOUGHT IT LOOKED CUTE!

ARE REAL ROOKIE RAKUGO PERFORMERS EVEN ALLOWED TO WEAR HAKAMA?
I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW SO I'LL JUST SHUT UP NOW.

UZATTEI
UZANNU



TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

BATHMAN

THE TITLE 風呂好きな男 (FURO ZUKI NA OTOKO) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY 風呂敷間男 (FUROSHIKI MAOTOKO - CHEATER UNDER WRAPS).

FUROSHIKI MAOTOKO IS A STORY ABOUT A WOMAN, WHO AFTER FEELING LONELY FROM HER HUSBAND LEAVING TOWN, INVITES A MALE FRIEND OF HERS AROUND TO "COMFORT" HER. OBVIOUSLY WHILE THIS IS HAPPENING HER HUSBAND APPEARS SUDDENLY, AND THE ADULTERER IS STASHED AWAY INSIDE A CUPBOARD WITH THE IDEA THAT WHEN A CHANCE OCCURS, HE CAN ESCAPE. HOWEVER THE HUSBAND FALLS ASLEEP DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE CUPBOARD. DESPERATE, THE ADULTERER CALLS OUT TO ONE OF THE HUSBAND'S AIDES AND CONVINCES HIM TO HELP HIM ESCAPE. THE AIDE LISTENS AND DEVISES A PLAN IN WHICH THE ADULTERER HAS TO WRAP HIMSELF UP IN A WRAPPING CLOTH. THINGS DON'T GO QUITE TO PLAN, HOWEVER...

THE TITLE OF THIS CHAPTER DIRECTLY TRANSLATES TO "BATH LOVING MAN" OR "THE MAN WHO LOVES BATHS" BUT I THOUGHT THAT "BATHMAN" WAS A LITTLE MORE SNAPPY AND FUN.

CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 7TH JUNE 2013.

PAGE 1:

"THAT WAS SOOOOO LAME!"

THIS CHARACTER IS A GYARU. "GYARU" IS THE JAPANESE transliteration OF THE ENGLISH WORD 'GAL'. (SEE NEXT NOTE.)

GYARU OFTEN MAKE HEAVY USE OF SLANG AND ABBREVIATIONS, WHAT SHE SAYS IN THIS PANEL IS ヤンパルクイナ (YANBARUKUINA) WHICH IS THE WORD FOR THE OKINAWA RAIL, A SMALL BIRD FOUND ONLY IN OKINAWA.

IN SLANG TERMS IT MEANS ヤバイ (YABAI - CRAP, RISKY). THE LATIN NAME FOR THE OKINAWA RAIL IS "GALLIRALLUS OKINAWAE" WHOSE FIRST THREE LETTERS TRANSLITERATE STRAIGHT BACK INTO "GYARU" AGAIN.

"OF COURSE NOT MISTER, WE'RE NAUGHTY DIRTY GIRLS!"

THOUGH I PLAYED UP THE BAWDY SIDE, THE TERM THIS GIRL USES TO DESCRIBE HERSELF AND HER FRIENDS IS 汚ギャル (OGYARU - LIT. DIRTY GAL) WHICH REFERS TO A GIRL WHO DOESN'T WASH, SHOWER OR CHANGE HER CLOTHES/UNDERWEAR ETC. FOR WEEKS AT A TIME.

IT'S PART OF "GYARU" FASHION PHENOMENON IN JAPAN, WHERE JAPANESE GIRLS WEAR OUTRAGEOUS AND FLAMBOYANT CLOTHES, AS WELL AS WEARING FAKE TAN/NAILS ETC. AND TAKE LITTLE INTEREST IN FINDING EMPLOYMENT OR GETTING MARRIED. THOUGH OGYARU AREN'T REALLY COMMON ANYMORE, THE NOT WASHING OR CHANGING CLOTHES PART OF IT WAS FROM REBELLION AGAINST THE PREVAILING JAPANESE CULTURE OF BEING FASTIDIOUSLY CLEAN AND TIDY AS WELL AS BATHING EVERY DAY. THE TERM IS KIND OF STIGMATISED TODAY AS OGYARU WERE OFTEN PORTRAYED AS HOMELESS OR PROSTITUTES IN THE JAPANESE MEDIA.

PAGE 3:

"YOU REALLY SHOULD TAKE A BATH BEFORE YOU PUT ON A YUKATA"

"YUKATA" (浴衣) LITERALLY MEANS "BATHING CLOTHES" IN JAPANESE.

(浴 - BATHING 衣 - CLOTHING).

"WEARING A YUKATA IS THE BEST THING ABOUT TANABATA."

"TANABATA", ALSO KNOWN AS "STAR FESTIVAL", IS A FESTIVAL THAT STARTS IN JAPAN ON THE 7TH OF JULY. IT CELEBRATES THE MEETING OF THE DEITIES ORIHIME AND HIKOBOSHI (REPRESENTED BY THE STARS VEGA AND ALTAIR).

ORIHIME WAS THE GODDESS OF WEAVING, AND SPENT ALL HER TIME WEAVING WONDERFUL CLOTHES ON THE BANK OF THE HEAVENLY RIVER "天の川" (AMA NO GAWA - THE MILKY WAY) SO MUCH TIME, IN FACT, THAT SHE NEVER HAD THE TIME TO MEET ANYONE OR FALL IN LOVE. HER FATHER INTRODUCES HER TO HIKOBOSHI, THE STAR OF COW HERDING. ORIHIME AND HIKOBOSHI FALL IN LOVE, AND ORIHIME GRADUALLY STOPPED MAKING CLOTHES. HER FATHER, FURIOUS, SPLITS THEM APART AND CASTS THEM TO DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE HEAVENLY RIVER, BUT ALLOWS THEM TO MEET ONCE A YEAR, ON TANABATA.

SINCE ORIHIME IS THE GODDESS OF WEAVING, YOUNG GIRLS IN ANCIENT CHINA WOULD PRAY TO HER ON TANABATA TO IMPROVE THEIR WEAVING AND SEWING SKILLS. OVER TIME THIS MORPHED INTO THE WISHING THAT HAPPENS TODAY.

THE DATE OF TANABATA, 7TH JULY, HAS ALSO BEEN NAMED AS "YUKATA DAY" TO HELP KEEP THE YUKATA TRADITION ALIVE.



PAGE 4:
"IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW BOYS A FRESH NEW LOOK!"
MAN IN THIS PANEL IS ICHIKAWA EBIZO XI, MAKING HIS LONG-AWAITED RETURN TO JOSHIRAKU AFTER SO LONG.

"WE HAVE TO WEAR A KIMONO FOR WORK! WEARING A YUKATA ISN'T FRESH OR EXCITING FOR US!"

"KIMONO" TRANSLATES DIRECTLY INTO "THING TO WEAR" AND IS A NORMAL TRADITIONAL JAPANESE GARMENT. TECHNICALLY YOU COULD SAY THAT A YUKATA IS A KIMONO, HOWEVER THERE ARE DIFFERENCES. YUKATA ARE OFTEN MUCH LIGHTER AND MADE OF COTTON INSTEAD OF SILK, THEY OFTEN HAVE THE SAME SHAPE AS A SUMMER KIMONO, BUT ARE USUALLY DYED IN FANTASTIC COLOURS OR PATTERNS, AND ARE GENERALLY MORE "FANCY", AND A MORE FORMAL OR DRESSY TYPE OF KIMONO. UNLIKE KIMONO, THEY ARE OFTEN WORN WITHOUT SOCKS OR ANY KIND OF UNDERSGARMENT. THE TYPE OF YUKATA THAT IS STILL WORN AFTER BATHING IS MORE LIKE A BATHROBE, AND IS USUALLY CUT ABOVE THE KNEE, AND UNPATTERNED.

PAGE 5:
"WHAT AM I, SOME KIND OF SLEAZY HOT-SPRING MASSAGE GIRL!?"
REFERENCE TO ATAMI HOT SPRING RESORTS, IN WHICH YOU CAN PURCHASE THE COMPANY OF A "COMPANION". THEY OFTEN WEAR SEE-THROUGH ROBES LIKE GAN HERE, BUT THEY USUALLY HAVE SOMETHING ELSE ON UNDERNEATH.

PAGE 8:
"I'M SO BAD AT ENGLISH! I WON'T BE ABLE TO WISH FOR ANYTHING!"
"DIDN'T YOU STUDY ABROAD THOUGH?"
REFERENCE TO KIGU'S FORMER VOICE ACTOR GOING TO AMERICA TO STUDY.

"NO, WHEN I HEAR THAT ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS NELLO AND PATRASCHE RUNNING UP AND DOWN THE STREETS SELLING MILK IN A DOG OF FLANDERS."
REFERENCE TO OUIDA NOVEL, "A DOG OF FLANDERS", IN WHICH THE TWO MAIN CHARACTERS, A BOY NAMED NELLO AND A DOG NAMED PATRASCHE EARN MONEY BY SELLING MILK FROM THE BACK OF A CART.

PAGE 9:
"YOU'RE WEARING A WESTERN BATHROBE SO YOU NEED A WESTERN BATHTUB!"
JAPANESE BATHS, FURO (風呂), ARE USUALLY SQUARE OR RECTANGULAR, MADE OF WOOD, HAVE STRAIGHT WALLS AND ARE DESIGNED FOR SITTING AND BATHING, RATHER THAN RECLINING. THEY NEVER HAVE THE DECORATIVE BALL AND CLAW FEET THAT SOME WESTERN BATHS HAVE.

PAGE 10:
"B-BUT I... USED TAMORI-SENSEI'S TRIED AND TESTED BATHING METHOD!"
TAMORI IS A HUGE JAPANESE CELEBRITY AND COMEDIAN. HIS METHOD OF BATHING IS ACTUALLY A REAL THING THAT HE'S KNOWN FOR IN JAPAN. HE'S WRITTEN MANY HEALTH BOOKS, AND POSITS THAT FREQUENT BATHING WITH HARSH SOAPS AND CHEMICALS WILL ACTUALLY WASH AWAY HELPFUL OILS AND SEBUM AND MAKE YOUR SKIN WORSE. THE "HAVE YOU HAD A HAIRCUT?" LINE ON THE NEXT PAGE IS A CATCHPHRASE OF HIS.

PAGE 12:
"A MOVING BATH WITH CAT LEGS, IT'S NOT A CATBUS, IT'S A CATBATH!"
BUS AND BATH ARE PRONOUNCED THE SAME IN JAPANESE, MAKING THIS A WORDPLAY ON THE CATBUS FROM "MY NEIGHBOUR TOTORO", A STUDIO GHIBLI FILM DIRECTED BY HAYAO MIYAZAKI.

"SHE'S BEEN RIDING AROUND ON TOP OF A LOT OF ANIMALS LATELY, HUH?"
REFERENCE TO CHAPTER 45'S OPENING PAGE AND ENDING.



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JOSHIRAKU



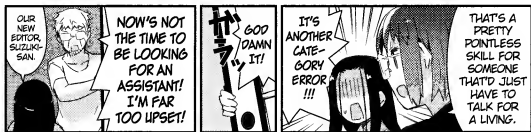
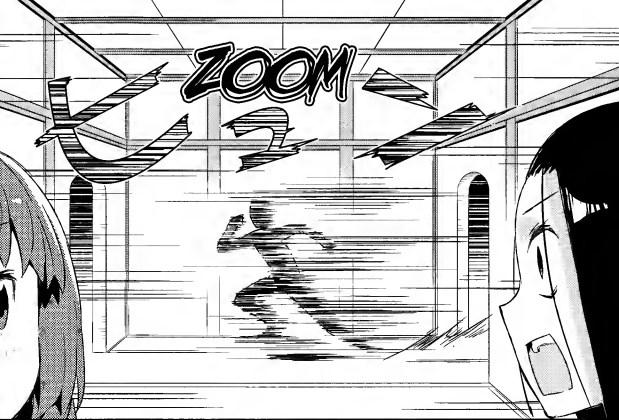


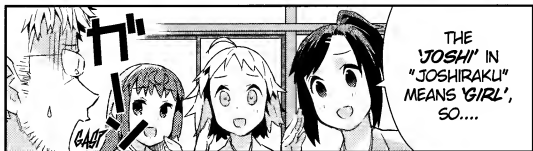
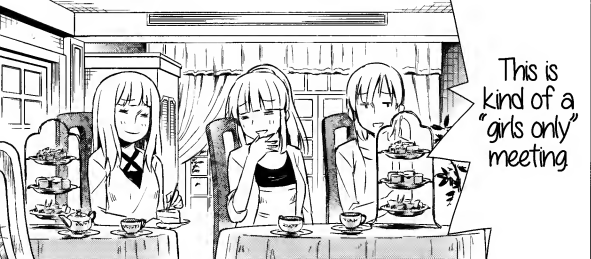


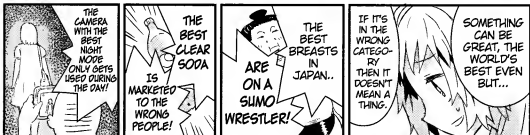
MANGAKA'S ASSISTANT APPLICATION FORM.

**ASSISTANT NEEDED FOR KOUJI KUMETA.
PLEASE ENCLOSE SOME EXAMPLES OF:
PEOPLE - BUILDINGS - NATURAL SCENES.
MAIL TO THE INCLUDED ADDRESS.**





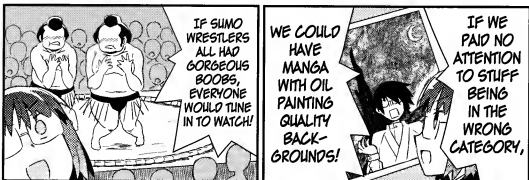
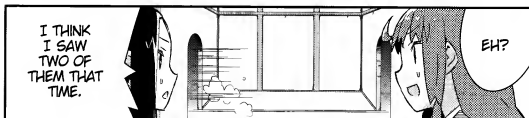




- Letting off cannons inside the Budokan during martial arts competitions
- Miraculous medical operations from BJ-series, despite being completely unlicensed
- Fancy modern apartments out in the mountains
- Flip-Phones full of amazing technology even though the rest of the world uses smartphones
- Spam telephone calls made by terrible actors
- Real porn stars making fake amateur porn
- K-POP at the Japan Expo
- Being told to eat cake, even though there's no bread
- Madnoid City
- Creating a tear-jerker love-story manga and having it marketed as a comedy
- Creating a heart-racing manga full of exciting battles and having it marketed as a comedy
- Creating a deeply moving sports manga and having it marketed as a comedy

**EVEN IF
SOME-
THING IS
GREAT,
CATEGORY
ERRORS
STILL
HAPPEN!**







EVEN IN RAKUGO THEATRES,



WHAT ABOUT FRENCH RESTAURANTS SERVING ITALIAN PASTA...



AND AS LONG AS IT'S GOOD,



OUR THEATRES HAVE ALWAYS ALLOWED STUFF OTHER THAN JUST RAKUGO!



ENRAKU-SENSEI IS SO AWESOME.

NO, THAT WAS SEKO...



YEAH! EVEN WITH MANGA AUTHORS,



ALL THESE RULES AND CATEGORIES... THEY'RE SO STIFLING AND DESTRUCTIVE!





WE
CAN
CHEAT!



THIS
ISN'T THE
OLYMPICS,
THIS IS
RAKUGO!
THERE'S NO
RESTRICTION
OR LAWS,
SO...



HOLD
ON A
MINUTE...

I THINK
THERE'S
MORE
PEOPLE
HERE NOW
THAN HAVE
EVER
COME TO
SEE US.



THE
THING
IS...

MAYBE
EVERYONE
IN JAPAN
WHO CAN
RUN 100M
IN UNDER 10
SECONDS
IS HERE..



THERE
WAS
MORE
OF
THEM?!

THIS
SHOULD
MAKE US
1 SECOND
FASTER...

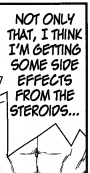
Ehreh eh eh eh eh hehheh.



MY VOICE...
IT'S GETTING
DEEPER...



I'M...
I'M
TURNING
INTO A
BOY!



NOT ONLY
THAT, I THINK
I'M GETTING
SOME SIDE
EFFECTS FROM
THE STEROIDS...



ABOUT
13 SEC-
ONDS...

WHAT
WAS
YOUR
ORIGINAL
TIME?
1 SEC-
OND?



THEN
THIS IS
USE-
LESS!

GOD
DAMN
IT!

**Guests
who can
run 100m
in 10
seconds**



**Ordinary
Guests**



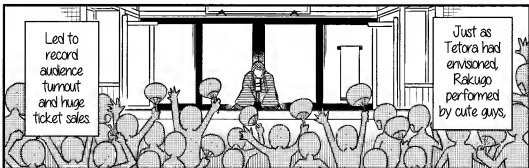
NO
WAY!

WE HAVE TO
LEARN HOW
TO RUN
100M IN 10
SECONDS!

IF WE CAN'T
FIND A WAY
TO GET
SOME OF
THOSE NEW
GUESTS,
THEN WE'RE
DOOMED!



W-WE'RE
IN THE
MINORITY!



Yasu's
comment

I USUALLY LEAVE THE DRAWING OF THE DRESSING ROOM AND BACKGROUNDS TO MY ASSISTANT SAKURABA-KUN, I COULD COUNT THE AMOUNT OF TIMES I'VE HAD TO DRAW IT ONE ONE HAND.

SINCE IT WAS OUT OF MY CONTROL, STRANGE LITTLE DETAILS THAT I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MADE IT IN, MYSTERIOUS POSTERS AND STRANGE DOLLS...

MY TWO ASSISTANTS ARE REALLY THE UNSUNG HEROS OF JOSHIRAKU, AND I CAN'T THANK THEM ENOUGH.

I DREW LOADS OF PICTURES AS A REFERENCE FOR THE ANIMATORS FOR THE ANIME ADAPTATION, BUT THE WAY THEY DREW THE DRESSING ROOM WAS SO CLEAR AND CONSISTENT THAT I ENDED UP USING IT AS MY REFERENCE INSTEAD!

ANIMATORS REALLY ARE AMAZING!



TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

CATEGORIZATION CELEBRATION

TITLE (カテゴリー万歳 - KATEGORII BANZAI) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY 掛取万歳

(KAKETORI MANZAI - TAX COLLECTION FARCE).

STORY REVOLVES HACHIGOROU, A MAN HOPELESSLY IN DEBT, AND TERRIFIED OF AN UPCOMING TAX COLLECTION.

HE COMES UP WITH A PLAN TO ALLAY AND CONFUSE THE DEBT COLLECTORS, AND ENLISTS THE HELP OF HIS WISE-CRACKING LANDLADY AND THE LOCAL TEMPERAMENTAL FISHMONGER. HE MANAGES TO CONVINCE THEM TO HELP HIM, WITH THE PROMISE OF REDUCING OR DELAYING THE PAYBACK OF THEIR OWN DEBT. FINALLY A STAGE ACTOR APPEARS AND OFFERS TO HELP, HOWEVER, NEGOTIATING WITH HIM TURNS OUT TO BE HARDER THAN THE TAX COLLECTORS...

DURING PERFORMANCES OF THIS STORY, THE RAKUGO PERFORMER WILL OFTEN ADD IN PERSONAL STORIES AND JOKES ABOUT HOW MUCH THEY HATE TAXMEN.

CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH JULY 2013.

PAGE 3:

"404 CATEGORY ERROR: COMPATIBILITY NOT FOUND!"

"CATEGORY ERROR" IS THE NAME USED IN DOLJIN CIRCLES WHEN AN AUTHOR SENDS THEIR WORK TO COMPETITIONS, JOB APPLICATIONS ETC. TO WHICH THE WORK ISN'T SUITED. SO SENDING A RESUME FULL OF SHONEN STEREOTYPES INTO A JOSEI MANGA COMPETITION ETC.

PAGE 4:

"OUR NEW EDITOR, SUZUKI-SAN"

RYOICHI "JOSHIJIMA" SUZUKI, JOSHIRAKU'S EDITOR.

PAGE 5:

"HE'S KINDA GIRLY, HUH."

THIS IS KIMETA BANTERING WITH SUZUKI RYOICHI. KIMETA HAS BEEN CALLING SUZUKI "JOSHIJIMA" (LITERALLY GIRLY JIMA) SINCE AN INCIDENT WHERE HE HAD WANTED TO GET SOME FANCY SWEETS FOR THE ANIME STAFF AFTER THEY'D FINISHED RECORDING, BUT THE SWEET SHOP HE'D WANTED TO GO TO WAS CLOSED. AFTER BEING ASKED WHY HE COULDN'T JUST GO TO A DIFFERENT STORE, HE REPLIED, "THAT DOESN'T MAKE A GIRL HAPPY!"

PAGE 6:

"I KNOW BAMBARA, WOLOF, NORTHERN SOTHO, TSWANA... AND A LITTLE ESPERANTO."

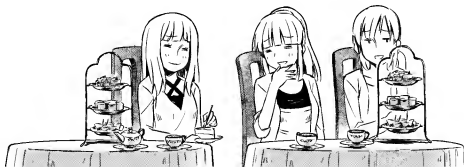
TSWANA AND NORTHERN SOTHO ARE LANGUAGES MOSTLY FOUND IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BAMBARA IS MALINESE, WOLOF IS USED IN SENEGAL AND GAMBIA, AND ESPERANTO IS A CONSTRUCTED LANGUAGE CREATED IN 1887 BY LAZARIUS ZAMENHOF, INTENDED TO BE A LANGUAGE USED ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

"THE BEST CLEAR SODA IS MARKETED TO THE WRONG PEOPLE!"

PEPSI HAVE RELEASED A FEW DIFFERENT KINDS OF CLEAR COLA IN JAPAN, BUT NONE HAVE SOLD PARTICULARLY WELL, DUE TO THE COMPANY THAT HANDLES PEPSI'S PRESENCE IN JAPAN, SUNTORY, MARKETING THE COLA TO THE WRONG DEMOGRAPHIC. EITHER JUST TO KIDS OR TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T DRINK COLA AT ALL.

"THE CAMERA WITH THE BEST NIGHT MODE ONLY GETS USED DURING THE DAY!"

INFRA-RED CAMERAS HAVE THE ABILITY TO SEE THROUGH THIN WHITE CLOTHING IN STRONG SUNLIGHT, AND THUS BECAME A FAVOURITE TOOL FOR PERVERTS.



PAGE 7:
LIST:
LETTING OFF CANNONS INSIDE THE BUDOKAN DURING MARTIAL ARTS COMPETITIONS!
LATER SAMURAI HAD TO BE TRAINED TO USE WEAPONS, INCLUDING CANNONS, WHILST ALSO RECEIVING MORE TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING. DURING LARGE MARTIAL ARTS COMPETITIONS ETC, CANNONS AND OTHER WEAPON TRAINED EXPERTS MAKE APPEARANCES, DESPITE NOT BEING MARTIAL ARTS.

MIRACULOUS MEDICAL OPERATIONS FROM BJ-SENSEI, DESPITE BEING UNLICENSED!
REFERENCE TO MANGA "BLACK JACK" WHOSE TITULAR CHARACTER IS AN UNLICENSED SURGEON.

K-POP AT THE JAPAN EXPO.

THE JAPAN EXPO IS AN EVENT HELD IN FRANCE EVERY YEAR DESIGNED TO INTRODUCE ELEMENTS OF JAPANESE CULTURE TO FRANCE AND THE WEST AS A WHOLE. ORGANIZERS ADDED KOREAN POP MUSIC ACTS ONE YEAR FOR SOME REASON.

BEING TOLD TO EAT CAKE, EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO BREAD.

REFERENCE TO THE QUOTE, "LET THEM EAT CAKE", USUALLY MISATTRIBUTED TO MARIE ANTOINETTE.

MACHIDA CITY.

A SMALL CITY INSIDE THE TOKYO METROPOLIS. REFERS TO ITSELF AS AN ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE OF SORTS, BUT IS DIFFICULT TO ACCESS DUE TO BEING SURROUNDED BY RIVERS.

CREATING A TEAR-JERKER LOVE-STORY MANGA AND HAVING IT MARKETED AS A COMEDY.

KUMETA SELF-REFERENCING HIS EXPERIENCES WITH HIS MANGA, "SODATTE DARLING".

CREATING A HEART-RACING MANGA FULL OF EXCITING BATTLES AND HAVING IT MARKETED AS A COMEDY.

"THE SUNSHINE SOLDIER POKA-POKA", ALSO BY KUMETA.

CREATING A DEEPLY MOVING SPORTS MANGA AND HAVING IT MARKETED AS A COMEDY.

REFERENCE TO "GO!! SOUTHERN ICE HOCKEY CLUB", BY, YOU GUESSED IT, KUMETA.

PAGE 9:

"AS LONG AS THEY'RE FUNNY THEN THERE'S NO REASON WHY THEY SHOULDN'T BE LET ON TV!"

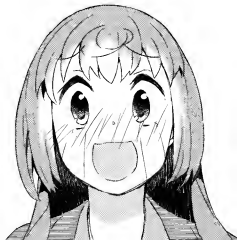
REFERENCE TO MITSURO KUBO AND MOTOO ABIKO, TWO MANGAKA WHO APPEARED ON A SHOW USUALLY RESERVED FOR JUST COMEDIANS CALLED "SHOCKING TELEPHONE", WHO TURNED OUT TO BE PRETTY FUNNY AND POPULAR GUESTS.

"ENRAKU-SENSEI IS SO AWESOME."

REFERENCE TO MARATHON-RUNNER 'TOSHIHIKO SEKO' AND RAKUGO LEGEND 'SANYUTEI ENRAKU THE 6TH', WHO ARE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF ONE ANOTHER.

"JUST AS TETORA HAD ENVISIONED, RAKUGO PERFORMED BY CUTE GUYS LED TO RECORD AUDIENCE TURNOUT AND HUGE TICKET SALES."

CHECK OUT "SHOUNA GENROKU RAKUGO SHINJUU", BY KUMOTA HARUKO.





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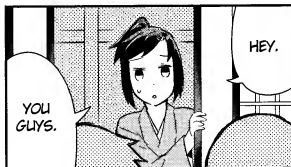
じょしらく



THANK
YOU FOR
LISTENING.



TOUGH
CROWD...



YOU
GUYS.



HEY.



SPARKLE

HOW LONG
ARE YOU
GOING TO
STAY AS...
GUYS?

HM?

AH!

WHAT
THE
HELL
WAS
THAT
FOR?

OO
OW
WW
W!!

キ

HEY! JUST
BECAUSE
I LOOK
LIKE A MAN
DOESN'T
MEAN I
GREW ONE
OF...
THOSE!



AHHH,
IT HURT YOU,
YOU REALLY
ARE A BOY...



GETTING
BETRAYED
BY TETORA
LIKE THAT WAS
A HUGE KICK
IN THE BALLS!!

YOU
DEFINITELY
MADE A
BIG FUSS
WHEN THE
BAT HIT,
THOUGH.

YOU HIT
ME IN THE
CROTCH
WITH A
BASEBALL
BAT, IT'D
HURT NO
MATTER
WHAT!



BUT YOU
SCREAMED
IN PAIN.



WE'RE
NOT
BOYS!

MY MY,
THE 4 OF
YOU TURN
INTO BOYS
AND NOW
IT'S NOTHING
BUT
NON-STOP
DIRTY TALK!



THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I MEANT!

MARII-SAN
YOU'RE SO
NAUGHTY,
YOU WON'T
STOP
TALKING
ABOUT
BALLS!

IN ORDER TO KEEP
UP WITH OUR GUESTS
WHO COULD RUN
100 METRES IN 10
SECONDS, THESE GUYS
ALL TOOK STEROIDS.
UNFORTUNATELY
THERE WAS SOME
"SIDE-EFFECTS" AND
WELL, THEY ALL KINDA
TURNED INTO MEN!



OH, RIGHT!
FOR ANY OF YOU
THAT BOUGHT THIS
MAGAZINE JUST
BECAUSE OF THE
"ATTACK ON TITAN"
SPECIAL AND
DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S GOING
ON, LET ME
EXPLAIN...

I COULDN'T
HELP IT, THE
CHAPTERS
KINDA FLOW
TOGETHER...

HEY,
DON'T
RUIN LAST
MONTH'S
PLOT!

WHAT WAS
IT LIKE,
LIVING AS
GUYS FOR
THE PAST
MONTH?

SO
ANYWAY,

IN FACT
IT KINDA
SUCKED.

BEING A
GUY WAS
NOWHERE
NEAR AS
MUCH FUN
AS I
THOUGHT IT
WAS GOING
TO BE.

UHH...

I COULDN'T
WATCH THE
"LADIESA"
CHAT SHOW!
OR EAT ANY
LADY BORDEN
ICE CREAM!

AND LADIES
DISCOUNT
DAY WAS
JUST AS
EXPENSIVE
AS A
NORMAL
DAY!

I COULDN'T
USE ANY OF
THE
LADIES-ONLY
FOOD AND
TRAVEL
DISCOUNTS
IN STORES
ANYMORE.

THEY
WOULDN'T
LET ME
ONTO THE
LADIES-ONLY
CARRIAGES
ON TRAINS...

I'VE JUST
THOUGHT
OF SOME-
THING!

AH!

YOU KNOW,
SUMMER
VACATION
WILL BE
OVER SOON.

WE
WANT
TO!
BUT
WE
CAN'T
!!

WHY
DON'T
YOU GO
BACK TO
HOW YOU
WERE,
THEN?

IF YOU
CHANGED YOUR
GENDER OVER
THE SUMMER
WITHOUT ANYONE
KNOWING, I BET
YOU COULD GET UP
TO ALL KINDS OF
MISCHIEF!

WHEN SUMMER
VACATION ENDS,
PEOPLE ALWAYS
HAVE PLENTY OF
STORIES ABOUT
WHAT KIND OF
MISCHIEF THEY
GOT UP TO,
RIGHT?

IF WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT THIS
I DID HAVE
ONE GOOD
THING
HAPPEN TO ME...

AH,
WELL...

YOU'RE
JUST
WANT
GOSSIP,
DON'T
YOU?

SPILL
THE
BEANS,
GUYS!

THIS SUMMER
HE ACTUALLY
GRABBED ME
AND GAVE ME
A SHOULDER
MASSAGE
INSTEAD!

EBIZO-SENPAI
USUALLY GIVES
ME THE COLD
SHOULDER BUT,

I WONDER
WHAT
CHANGED
FOR THAT
TO HAPPEN...

HE
FINALLY
NOTICED US!
EBIZO-
SENPAI
NOTICED
US!

SOME-
THING
SIMILAR
HAPPENED
TO ME
TOO...

EHH?!
REALLY?

AH!
YOU'RE
SO
LUCKY
!!

HE
INVITED
ME OUT
FOR
DINNER.

**YOU MIGHT
GET STUCK
AS BOYS
FOREVER!**

**YOU
KNOW GUYS,
IF YOU'RE
CARELESS AND
DON'T TURN
BACK INTO
GIRLS SOON,**

**HEY I
WASN'T
HAPPY!**

**OF COURSE
MARI-SAN WAS
PROBABLY HAPPY
ABOUT IT SEEING
HOW SHE'S A
CROSS-DRESSING
BOY ANYWAY,
BUT I HATE IT!**

**I'VE WANTED
TO TURN BACK
EVER SINCE IT
HAPPENED!**

SPLASH

**WE HAVE
TO LOOK
AT CASES
WHERE
THIS HAS
HAPPENED
BEFORE...**

**BUT WHAT
CAN WE
DO TO
TURN
BACK?**

- Wishing upon a magical book to become a true manly man and get turned into a girl instead.
- Getting so turned-on from reading porn in the bathroom that you turn into a girl.
- Getting hit by a bolt of lightning after school and changing sex.
- Getting changed into a girl by Charot Requiem.

**THINK OF
AS MANY
METHODS
FOR TURNING
INTO A GIRL
THAT YOU
CAN!**

**THIS
ISN'T
RANMA!**

**WHAT IF
I HAD
TURNED
INTO A
PANDA?**

**I WAS
SURE
THAT
WOULD
TURN
YOU
BACK...**

AREN'T THOSE
ALL JUST
CROSS-
DRESSING,
MARI-SAN?

- Enter AKB48 as the 49th Member
- Get cursed by a doll
- Become a guppy-owning trepanner
- Fulfill your grandmother's last wish to win the chairmanship of the all-girls school
- Plot to kill Sakamoto Ryouma
- Sell 283 Million albums
- Go through a messy divorce and then get hired as a maid for the house you got kicked out of

WAIT,
I HAVE
A FEW
MORE.

SIDE-EFFECTS
FROM THE
STEROIDS...

HMMM,
HOW DID
YOU TURN
INTO MEN IN
THE FIRST
PLACE....

WE NEED
TO TAKE
A MORE
SCIENTIFIC
APPROACH!

STOP
THINKING OF
SILLY MANGA
METHODS
FOR TURNING
INTO A GIRL.

YOU NEED TO
TAKE MEDICINE
WITH FEMINIZING
SIDE-EFFECTS!

THAT'S IT!
TO TURN
BACK
INTO GIRLS,

AHH YEAH!
I'VE HEARD
THAT SOME
HAIR-LOSS
MEDICINE CAN
TURN YOU
INTO A GIRL!

HAIR
LOSS
TREAT-
MENT!

WE'RE
GIRLS
AGAIN!

WE'RE
BACK!

Rustle
Rustle

I-IT
DOES?

IT ALSO
MAKES
YOUR
BOOBS
BIGGER.





ARGH!

WELL, THE
DRUG WAS
SUPPOSED
TO MAKE
YOUR HAIR
GROW,
AFTER ALL.

WHAT
THE
HELL!



YOURS IS
GROWING
SIDWAYS!



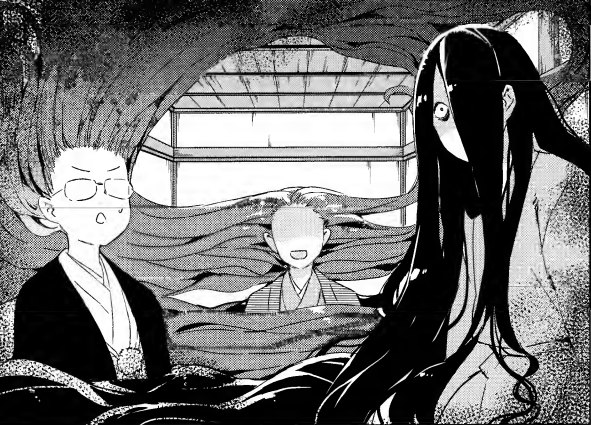
IT
WON'T
STOP
GROWING
!!!!

IT'S
GETTING
LONGER!



IT IS!
YOUR
HAIR IS
GROWING
STRAIGHT
UP!

IS THAT
GOING
HAPPEN
TO US
TOO?





SUCH
TALENT!
SUCH
GRACE!

Aren't
they
amazing?

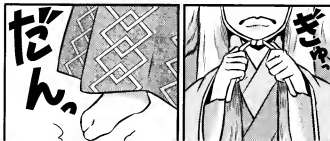


That
Renjishi!
It's
amazing!



I CAN'T
LET
THEM
SHOW
ME UP!

AHHH!



NOW
THEY'RE
MY
FIERCEST
RIVALS!

THE BOYS
I ONCE
KNEW ARE
GONE...



YOU'RE
PRETTY GOOD
AT THIS!
BUT THERE'S
STILL ROOM
FOR IM-
PROVEMENT!

ぶん



ぶん

WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING?

HE'S
TEACHING
THEM?!
HE MUST
REALLY BE
DEDICATED
TO HIS
ART...

LIKE
THIS?

ぶん

ぶん

ぶん

NO
NO!
LIKE
THIS!

LIKE
THIS?

ぶん

ぶん

DO IT
LIKE
THIS!

WO
OO!

HERE
THEY
COME!!

ぶん
NO!
LIKE
THIS!
LIKE THIS?
LIKE THIS??

LIKE
THIS
!!
LIKE
THIS
??

TWIRL
TWIRL

I THINK
YOU MIGHT
BE TAKING
THIS THE
WRONG
WAY...

ぶん

HE
REALLY
CARES
ABOUT
US!!



Yasu's
comment

JOSHIRAKU HAS A LOT OF MYSTERIOUS BACKGROUND CHARACTERS THAT APPEAR ONE PANEL AND THEN DISAPPEAR THE NEXT. THE OLD WOMAN IN PARTICULAR I TRIED TO FIT INTO MOST CHAPTERS, NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT.

I THINK HAVING THESE BACKGROUND CHARACTERS IS PART OF KUMETA-SENSEI'S STYLE, THERE'S ALWAYS ONE OR TWO IN MOST OF HIS WORKS.

THOUGH THEY DON'T HAVE A NAME, TRYING TO GET THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERS INTO AS MANY CHAPTERS AS POSSIBLE WAS A LOT OF FUN.



BACKGROUND
CHARACTERS

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

GENDER MENDER

THE TITLE 転性気 (TENSEIKI) IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY 転失気 (TENSHIKI), WHOSE MEANING IS DESCRIBED BELOW.

A TEMPLE PRIEST BEGINS TO FEEL ILL, AND SO CALLS FOR A DOCTOR. THE DOCTOR ARRIVES, GIVES A MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND AFTERWARDS ASKS THE PRIEST WHETHER HE HAS "TENSHIKI". THE PRIEST HAS NO IDEA WHAT "TENSHIKI" IS, BUT NOT WANTING TO APPEAR FOOLISH IN FRONT OF THE DOCTOR, SAYS THAT HE DOES NOT. THE DOCTOR IS A LITTLE CONFUSED, AND LEAVES.

THE PRIEST GETS A MONK TO HEAD INTO THE VILLAGE TO FIND OUT WHAT TENSHIKI MEANS. THE MONK HEADS DIRECTLY TO THE DOCTOR AND INFORMS HIM THAT THE PRIEST ACTUALLY HAS NO IDEA WHAT TENSHIKI IS AND WAS LYING ABOUT NOT HAVING IT EARLIER. THE DOCTOR EXPLAINS THAT "TENSHIKI" IS AN OLD CHINESE WORD THAT MEANS "FARTS".

THE DOCTOR DECIDES TO PLAY A PRANK ON THE PRIEST, AND SO TELLS THE MONK TO TELL THE PRIEST THAT "TENSHIKI" IS A SPECIAL WORD FOR SAKE CUP. THE MONK RETURNS AND GIVES THE PRIEST THIS INFORMATION.

THE NEXT DAY THE DOCTOR SHOWS UP AGAIN, AND ASKS THE PRIEST WHETHER HE HAS TENSHIKI. THE PRIEST REPLIES, "WHY YES, OF COURSE I HAVE TENSHIKI! I KEEP THEM ALL LOCKED UP IN A LITTLE BOX, AND WHEN YOU OPEN THE LID, A WONDERFUL SMELL APPEARS! WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?". THE DOCTOR AND MONK START LAUGHING AND EXPLAIN TO THE PRIEST THAT HE'S BEEN PRANKED, AND THAT HE SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID TO ASK WHAT THINGS MEAN IN THE FUTURE.

CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH AUGUST 2013.

PAGE 3:

"OH, RIGHT! FOR ANY OF YOU THAT BOUGHT THIS MAGAZINE JUST BECAUSE OF THE "ATTACK ON TITAN" SPECIAL..."

THE 11TH VOLUME OF ATTACK ON TITAN WENT ON SALE ON THE SAME DAY AS THIS CHAPTER WAS FIRST PUBLISHED.

THE MAGAZINE THAT BOTH JOSHIRAKU AND AOT IS PRINTED IN HAD A SPECIAL ALTERNATE COVER AND SOME OTHER AOT STUFF INCLUDED, THUS BOOSTING THE READERSHIP BY A WIDE MARGIN.

PAGE 14:

LADIES TRAIN CARRIAGES / LADIES DAY / LADIES DISCOUNTS / LADIESH / LADY BORDEN

JAPANESE TRAINS HAVE WOMEN-ONLY CARRIAGES TO STOP GROPPING AND OTHER ASSAULT.

LADIES DAY IS A PROMOTIONAL DAY IN WHICH WOMEN ARE ENTICED INTO LOCAL BUSINESSES ETC. WITH HEAVY DISCOUNTS.

THE WOMEN-ONLY DISCOUNTS THAT GAN MENTIONS IS ALSO LIKE THIS, BUT THEY RUN ALL YEAR ROUND.

LADIESH IS A DAILY PANEL SHOW AIMED TOWARDS WOMEN, SIMILAR TO "THE VIEW" IN THE US OR "LOOSE WOMEN" IN THE UK.

THE "4" IN THE TITLE STANDS FOR ITS FOUR MAIN TOPICS, "LIVE", "LIFESTYLE", "LANGUAGE" AND "LOVE".

LADY BORDEN IS A LUXURY BRAND OF ICE CREAM, SIMILAR TO HAAGEN DAAZ.

PAGE 5:

"HE FINALLY NOTICED US! EBIZO-SENPAI NOTICED US!"

"I WONDER WHAT CHANGED FOR THAT TO HAPPEN..."

THERE HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT RUMOURS CONCERNING EBIZO'S SEXUALITY, INCLUDING REPORTS OF HIM VISITING GAY CLUBS, AND A MALE AUTHOR REPORTEDLY KISSED HIM. THOUGH, EBIZO IS MARRIED TO A WOMAN, AND ALSO HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING A SERIAL WOMANIZER, SO IT'S PROBABLY SAFE TO SAY THAT EBIZO IS JUST REALLY HORNY IN GENERAL.

PAGE 6:

"THIS ISN'T RANMA! WHAT IF I HAD TURNED INTO A PANDA!?"

IN "RANMA 1/2", BY TAKAHASHI RUMIKO, THE MAIN CHARACTER, RANMA SAOTOME, CAN TRANSFORM INTO A GIRL BY BEING SPLASHED WITH COLD WATER. ANOTHER CHARACTER, GENMA SAOTOME, TURNS INTO A PANDA WHEN SPLASHED WITH COLD WATER.



THINK OF AS MANY METHODS FOR TURNING INTO A GIRL THAT YOU CAN!"

- WISHING UPON A MAGICAL BOOK TO BECOME A MAN AND GET TURNED INTO A GIRL INSTEAD.

REFERENCE TO "CHEEKY ANGEL" BY NISHIMORI HIROYUKI.

- GETTING SO TURNED-ON FROM READING PORN IN THE BATHROOM THAT YOU TURN INTO A GIRL.

REFERENCE TO FUTABA-KUN CHANGE! BY ARO HIROSHI.

- GETTING HIT BY A BOLT OF LIGHTING AFTER SCHOOL AND CHANGING SEX.

APPARENTLY SOMEWHAT OF A TROPE IN JAPANESE TV.

- GETTING CHANGED INTO A GIRL BY CHARIOT REQUIEM.

"CHARIOT REQUIEM" IS A STAND FROM JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE, A MANGA BY ARAKI HIROHIKO.

ONE OF THE STAND'S ABILITIES, GRAND SCALE SOUL MANIPULATION, CAUSES EVERYONE IN THE AREA OF EFFECT TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS, AT WHICH POINT YOUR SOUL IS TRANSFERRED INTO THE CLOSEST LIVING THING.

PAGE 7:

"WAIT, I HAVE A FEW MORE." "AREN'T THOSE ALL JUST CROSS-DRESSING, MARI-SAN?"

- ENTERING AKB48 AS THE 49TH MEMBER.

REFERENCE TO AKB49: REN'AI KINSHI JOURI, BY MOTOAZABU FAKUTORI. IN THE STORY MINORI URAYAMA, A HIGH SCHOOL BOY TRIES TO HELP HIS CRUSH FULFIL HER DREAM OF BECOMING AN IDOL BY CROSS-DRESSING AND GOING TO THE AUDITION WITH HER AS MORAL SUPPORT, HOWEVER HE IS CHOSEN INSTEAD.

- BEING CURSED BY A DOLL.

REFERENCE TO HAYATE THE COMBAT BUTLER, WHICH INVOLVES A STORYLINE IN WHICH THE MAIN CHARACTER IS CURSED BY A DOLL AND IS FORCIBLY CROSS-DRESSED AS A RESULT.

- BEING A GUPPY-OWNING TREPANNER.

REFERENCE TO HOMUNCULUS, A MANGA BY YAMAMOTO HIDEO WHICH FEATURES A CROSS-DRESSING CHARACTER.

- GOING THROUGH A MESSY DIVORCE AND THEN BEING HIRED AS A MAID FOR THE HOUSE YOU GOT KICKED OUT OF.

MRS. DOUBTFIRE.

- FULFILLING YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S LAST WISH TO WIN THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL.

REFERENCE TO MARIA+HOLIC, A MANGA BY ENDO MINARI, IN WHICH A CHARACTER MARIYA SHIDO CROSS-DRESSES AS A GIRL TO FULFIL HIS GRANDMOTHER'S WISH.

- PLOT TO KILL SAKAMOTO RYOMA.

REFERENCE TO MOVIE "RYOMA ANSATSI", WHICH FEATURES CROSS-DRESSING.

- SELL 283 MILLION ALBUMS.

REFERENCE TO MANGA "BREMEN" BY UMEZAWA HARUTO WHICH FEATURES A CROSS-DRESSING DRUMMER.

"AHH, I'VE HEARD THAT SOME HAIR-LOSS MEDICINE CAN TURN YOU INTO A GIRL!"

REFERENCE TO FINASTERIDE, AN ANTI-ANDROGEN DRUG USED TO TREAT MALE PATTERN BALONNESS, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN USED IN HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY FOR MALE-TO-FEMALE TRANSSEXUALS.

PAGE 10:

"THAT RENJISHI! IT'S... WONDERFUL!"

RENNISHI IS A FAMOUS KABUKI DANCE. IT TELLS THE STORY OF A MIGHTY LION WHO LIVES HIGH IN THE CHINESE MOUNTAINS, TRAINING HIS SON TO BE AS MIGHTY AS HE IS. THE LIONS ARE REPRESENTED BY ACTORS WEARING LONG MAGNIFICENT WIGS, AND TOWARDS THE END OF THE PLAY IN THE FINAL DANCE, THE ACTORS TWIRL THEIR HEADS AROUND FLINGING THE WIGS TO AND FRO.

KABUKI (歌舞伎) ITSELF MEANS SONG (歌), DANCE (舞), AND SKILL (伎) AND IS A TRADITIONAL TYPE OF JAPANESE DRAMA-DANCE THEATRE, IT'S PROBABLY MOST KNOWN IN THE WEST FOR ITS USE OF ELABORATE MAKE-UP AND COSTUME DESIGNS.

PAGE 12:

"WIRE WORK? WHAT IS THIS, THE CIRCUS?"

TETORA IS REFERENCING SUPER-KABUKI HERE.

SUPER-KABUKI IS A MODERN FORM OF KABUKI THAT FEATURES CIRCUS-LIKE ACROBATICS, WIRE WORK (WIRES ATTACHED TO ACTORS SO THEY APPEAR TO FLY AROUND STAGE) AND MODERN MUSIC AND THEMES.

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL MANGA ADAPTED INTO SUPER-KABUKI SHOWS.





じょしらく

J O S H I R A K U





JUST MIGHT
HAVE SPARED
YOU FROM ALL
THE STRANGE
INCIDENTS
THAT HAVE
BEEN GOING
ON HERE
LATELY...



BUT
YOU
KNOW,
THAT
MAKE-
UP...

YOU'RE
STILL
DOING
KABUKI.

I
KNOW
IT.



JUST
NOW,
WHILE
I WAS
WALKING
HERE...

I GOT THE
FEELING THAT
SOMEONE WAS
TAILING ME.

AAH
YEAH,
WE
TOTALLY
DO!



SEE, YOU
LOOK LIKE
THOSE CCTV
WARNING
STICKERS
YOU SEE
EVERY-
WHERE.



WAS
SOMEONE
CALLED
LIZANNU!

THE
CRIMINAL
....

I
WROTE
MY NAME
BECAUSE
YOU
ASKED
WHO I
WAS!

BUT IN
YOUR DYING
MESSAGE
YOU WROTE...

THAT'S
MY
NAME!!

YOU'RE
WRONG
!!!!

AND THEN
NOT DYING...

WRITING
A DYING
MESSAGE,

WHOEVER
THEY WERE,
GAN-CHAN
TOOK CARE
OF THEM.

DOES IT
MATTER
?

I WONDER
WHO THAT
WAS..

I DON'T
THINK
THEY'LL
BE GETTING
UP AFTER
THAT...

SO
ANNOY-
ING!

EVERYONE
TAKE OFF
YOUR
KABUKI
MAKE-UP.

WELL,
ANYWAY,

OW!

JUST IGNORE
ALL THE SPOTS
WHERE YOU HIT
HER AND LOOK
HERE...

RIGHT,
TAKE
A LOOK
AT THIS
GIRL.

SO, BACK
TO THESE
"STRANGE
INCIDENTS"
...

THESE
ATTACKS
ARE
GETTING
OUT OF
CONTROL,
THERE'S
BEEN SO
MANY OF
THEM!

ALL THE
VICTIMS
SO FAR
HAVE HAD
IDENTICAL
MARKS
ON THEIR
HEADS.

YOU CAN SEE
A MARK ON HER
HEAD WHERE IT
LOOKS LIKE
SHE'S BEEN HIT
BY SOME KIND
OF BLUNT
OBJECT.

A BLUNT,
HEAVY
OBJECT,
ABOUT
THIS THICK.

I THINK IT'S
THE SAME
WEAPON,
EVERY TIME.

THE
PRINTING
INDUSTRY
JUST DOESN'T
HAVE THE
TECHNOLOGY
TO MAKE
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

YOU MORON,
KIGU,
THERE'S NO
MAGAZINE
THAT THICK!

A MANGA
MAGAZINE,
MAYBE?

HHMMM

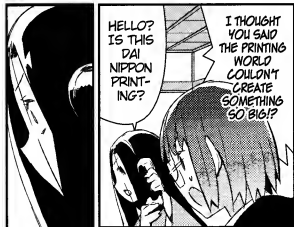
びすん
SLAM



IT'S A
PERFECT
MATCH!

NO
WAY!

NO-

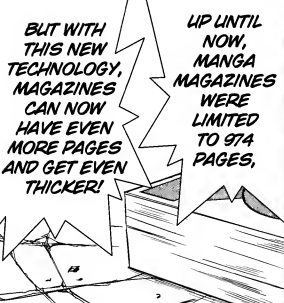


HELLO?
IS THIS
DAI
NIPPON
PRINT-
ING?

I THOUGHT
YOU SAID
THE PRINTING
WORLD
COULDN'T
CREATE
SOMETHING
SO BIG!?

IT'S
HEAVY
ENOUGH
TO KILL
SOME-
ONE!

WHEN
DID
MAGA-
ZINES
GET
THIS
THICK!?



BUT WITH
THIS NEW
TECHNOLOGY,
MAGAZINES
CAN NOW
HAVE EVEN
MORE PAGES
AND GET EVEN
THICKER!

UP UNTIL
NOW,
MANGA
MAGAZINES
WERE
LIMITED
TO 974
PAGES,



THEY
DEVELOP-
ED
NEW
TECHNO-
LOGY!



BUT NOW
THEY'VE GONE
TOO FAR!

Safe

Bad

974 PAGES
WAS NEAR
THE LIMIT FOR
WHAT A HUMAN
HEAD COULD
WITHSTAND...



HUMANITY
HAS
OPENED A
PANDORA'S
BOX!!

OH,
THIS IS
BAD!!



PEOPLE
OUT THERE
ARE USING
THE
MAGAZINE
AS A
WEAPON!



Monthly
Shonen
Magazine
became a
dangerous
new weapon.

VROOOOOOOOMM

In the
year 20XX,
due to dangerous
new technology
created by
Mad Engineers
at Dai Nippon
Printing,



KYAAAAA!!



THIS
IS BAD!
REAL
BAD!



IN ORDER
TO SAVE
JAPAN...



THE
ULTIMATE
SACRIFICE
...

WE
HAVE TO
MAKE

IT'S TOO
LATE TO
STOP NOW,
AEROSMITH
IS ALREADY
PLAYING.

DO WE
REALLY
HAVE TO
SACRIFICE
OUR-
SELVES?!

JUST
HANG
ON A
MINUTE
!!

N-NO!

WELL
THAT'S
THAT
IDEA
OUT THE
WINDOW.

Uzannu

THEN
WE'LL
TAKE A
VOTE.

WHO
HERE
IS OP-
POSED?

I
SUPPORT
THE
SACRIFICE
IDEA.

I'VE BEEN
SEARCHING
FOR A
GOOD TIME
TO DIE FOR
A WHILE
NOW.

IS THAT
REALLY A
COMPROMISE,
THOUGH?

CRYOGENIC
FREEZING!

WELL,
WE'LL JUST
HAVE TO
COMPROMISE
INSTEAD!

Kukuru-
chan
thought,

As her
mind
grew faint.

クク
ル
ちゃん
の
心
が
弱
る
ま
で

I'LL GO
FIRST.

"A stupid
way
to end"

"This really
really is."



+

Haaa.....

?



I'LL MEET
YOU IN THE
AFTERLIFE,
AT
GOKOKU-JI
SHRINE.

Gan-chan
thought,



As her mind
grew faint,

ME NEXT,
I GUESS.

ALL
RIGHT.



Is
really
fogging
up my
glasses"

"God
damn it.
This
cryogenic
tank."

ふしゅう
う
pushoo

THEY'LL
LET US
COME
BACK,
RIGHT?

SURELY
WHEN THE
MAGAZINE
THINS
OUT A
LITTLE,

I'LL GO
TOO, I
GUESS.

"I wonder
when that
will be.."

"When
the
magazine
thins
out.."

Kigur-
chan
thought,

As her
mind grew
faint,

EVERYONE'S
ALREADY
GONE, HUH.

"Will the
authors
still even
be alive
anymore?"

"When
that
time
comes.."

Maris-
san
thought,

As her
mind
grew
faint,

ふしゅう
う
pushoo

I
GUESS
I HAVE
TO DO
THIS,
TOO!

WELL,
TO SAVE
JAPAN
FROM
FALLING
INTO
LITTER
CHAOS...

"Really
make any
difference
at all?"

"Will getting
rid of
13 measly
pages."



And at the
exact moment
she started to
slip away,
Mant-san
suddenly
became
painfully aware
of something

**This month's issue had a 41 page
short story printed in the middle.**



KATO!
PREPARE
TO DIE!

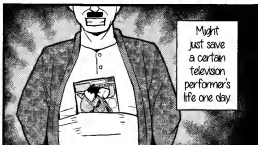
However,
this ever
increasingly
hefty manga
magazine.



It
wasn't
even
manga.

**The Last Page of the
Legendary Magazine Messiahs.**

『JOSHIRAKU』 End.



Might
just save
a certain
television
performer's
life one day.

AFTERWORD.

THANK YOU FOR READING JOSHIRAKU'S 6TH VOLUME!

IT'S THE LAST VOLUME OF THE SERIES, BUT I REALLY HOPE YOU ENJOYED IT.

THESE LAST 4 YEARS SEEM TO HAVE JUST FLOWN BY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE TO ME, IT'S CRAZY.

AH, I DECIDED TO EXPERIMENT WITH THE CHARACTER DRAWINGS AT THE END OF EACH CHAPTER THIS TIME, I WANTED TO GIVE THEM A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FEEL FROM THE REST, SO I USED THICKER, ROUGHER LINES. IT TOOK A WHILE, BUT I'M HAPPY WITH HOW THEY CAME OUT.

TO KUMETA-SENSEI.

TO OUR EDITORS, SUZUKI-SAMA AND NAKADA-SAMA.

TO OUR FORMER EDITORS, MIURA-SAMA AND SHIODA-SAMA.

TO THE COVER DESIGNER, HISAMOCCHI-SAMA.

YOUR ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN INVALUABLE.

THANK YOU.

TO MY ASSISTANTS, SAKURABA-KUN AND KIBIDANGO-SAN, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.

AND TO ALL THE READERS THAT STUCK WITH US ALL UNTIL THE VERY END, THANK YOU SO SO MUCH.
I HOPE WE ALL MEET AGAIN SOME TIME!

-YASU



TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

THE SECRET OF THE END

TITLE, 終末の極意 (SHUUMATSU NO GOKUI, LIT. "THE INNERMOST SECRETS OF THE ENDING") IS A REFERENCE TO RAKUGO STORY 始末の極意 (SHIMATSU NO GOKUI - MASTER MISER/THE SECRETS OF MISERLINESS).

TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS STORY, FIRST IMAGINE THE "OK" HAND SIGN IN YOUR HEAD, WHERE THE FOREFINGER AND THE THUMB COME TOGETHER TO MAKE A CIRCLE, AND THE REMAINING FINGERS SPREAD OUT BEHIND IT.

WHILE THIS SIGN MEANS "OK" IN ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES (AND IS AN INSULT IN SOME OTHERS) IN JAPAN THAT SIGN MEANS "MONEY" OR "COINS". NOW THAT YOU HAVE THAT IN MIND...

THE STORY REVOLVES AROUND TWO CHARACTERS, ONE OF WHICH IS A FAMOUSLY MISERLY AND PENNY-PINCHING OLD MAN, AND HIS NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOUR, WHO ADMIRES HOW STINGY THE OLD MAN IS AND WISHES TO LEARN FROM HIM. THE NEIGHBOUR KNOCKS ON THE DOOR OF THE OLD MAN AND ASKS TO BORROW HIS HAMMER.

"FOR WOODEN PINS, OR FOR NAILS?" THE OLD MAN ASKS.

"FOR NAILS" THE NEIGHBOUR REPLIES.

"NO, NO, NO, I CAN'T LET YOU USE MY HAMMER! NAILS WILL DENT AND SCRATCH IT!" HE CRIES.

"FINE, THEN I'LL USE MY OWN HAMMER" SAYS THE NEIGHBOUR.

THE OLD MAN IS IMPRESSED WITH THE NEIGHBOUR'S BURGEONING STINGINESS AND DECIDES TO TEACH HIM THE TRUE WAYS OF PENNY-PINCHING.

AFTER A SERIES OF LESSONS, THE NEIGHBOUR LEARNS MUCH FROM THE OLD MAN. ONE NIGHT, THE OLD MAN INVITES THE NEIGHBOUR INTO HIS GARDEN TO TEACH HIM THE ULTIMATE LESSON OF STINGINESS. HE BRINGS OUT A LADDER AND MAKES THE NEIGHBOUR CLIMB TO THE VERY TOP OF THE TALLEST TREE IN HIS GARDEN. THE NEIGHBOUR DOES SO AND THE MISERLY OLD MAN TAKES AWAY THE LADDER, LEAVING THE NEIGHBOUR SWINGING FROM A BRANCH.

THE NEIGHBOUR PANICS BUT THE OLD MAN ASSURES HIM THAT THIS IS PART OF THE LESSON, AND ASKS HIM TO LET GO OF THE BRANCH WITH ONE HAND, THE NEIGHBOUR IS SCARED BUT DOES IT ANYWAY. THE OLD MAN ASKS THE NEIGHBOUR TO REMOVE HIS FINGERS ONE BY ONE UNTIL HE IS HOLDING ONTO THE BRANCH WITH ONLY HIS THUMB AND FOREFINGER, THE MONEY SIGN.

AFTER REPEATEDLY ASKING THE NEIGHBOUR TO LET GO, FINALLY THE NEIGHBOUR SCREAMS AT THE OLD MAN, "NO! I'LL NEVER LET GO! NEVER EVER EVER!"

THE OLD MAN REPLIES, "THAT, MY BOY, IS THE FINAL LESSON OF STINGINESS, NEVER LET GO OF YOUR MONEY!"

CHAPTER FIRST PUBLISHED 9TH SEPTEMBER 2013.

PAGE 2:

"YOU LOOK LIKE THOSE CCTV WARNING STICKERS YOU SEE EVERYWHERE!"

THE KABUKI EYES STICKER AS SEEN IN PANELS 4 AND 5 CAN OFTEN BE SEEN IN TOKYO, AFFIXED TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND OTHER VEHICLES, AND SERVES AS A WARNING TO CRIMINALS THAT THE VEHICLE IS ALARMED OR HAS SECURITY CAMERAS INSIDE, OR THAT THE AREA IT RESIDES IN IS BEING WATCHED BY CCTV CAMERAS.

PAGE 6:

PANEL 1:

THE MAGAZINE PICTURED HERE IS BESSATSU SHONEN MAGAZINE, A MONTHLY MANGA MAGAZINE AND A SPIN-OFF OF KODANSHA'S "WEEKLY SHONEN MAGAZINE".

IT WAS THE MAGAZINE THAT JOSHIRAKU WAS PRINTED IN, AS WELL AS OTHER SERIES LIKE 'ATTACK ON TITAN' AND 'FLYING WITCH'.

"HELLO? IS THIS DAI NIPPON PRINTING?"

DAI NIPPON PRINTING IS THE PRINTING COMPANY THAT PRINTS BESSATSU SHONEN MAGAZINE.

PAGE 7:

"UP UNTIL NOW MANGA MAGAZINES WERE LIMITED TO 974 PAGES BUT..."

BESSATSU SHONEN MAGAZINE STARTED WITH 746 PAGES, BUT AS POPULARITY GREW, SO DID THE PAGE COUNT.



PAGE 9:

"WE HAVE TO MAKE.... THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE."

THE SUITS AND POSES OF THE GIRLS ARE A REFERENCE TO THE FILM, 'ARMAGEDDON' (1998).

"IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP NOW, AEROSMITH IS ALREADY PLAYING."

REFERENCE TO AEROSMITH SONG "I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING", WHICH FEATURED ON THE SOUNDTRACK TO ARMAGEDDON.

PAGE 10:

"THIS REALLY REALLY IS A STUPID WAY TO END."

THE ORIGINAL JOKE HERE INVOLVES THE TERM 薬屋オチ (GAKUYA OCHI) WHICH MEANS AN "IN-JOKE" OR "INCOMPREHENSIBLE", IT TRANSLATES LITERALLY INTO "DRESSING ROOM PUNCHLINE".

"I'LL MEET YOU IN THE AFTERLIFE, AT GOKOKU-JI SHRINE."

THIS IS A REFERENCE TO THE IMPERIAL SHRINE OF YASUKUNI, A HUGE SHRINE DEDICATED TO THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO DIED IN SERVICE OF JAPAN AND ITS MILITARY. "I'LL SEE YOU AT YASUKUNI SHRINE" WAS A THING JAPANESE SOLDIERS WOULD SAY TO EACH OTHER BEFORE HEADING OUT ON MISSIONS IN WHICH THEY WERE ALMOST CERTAIN TO DIE. GOKOKU-JI SHRINE IS A SHRINE IN THE BUNKYO WARD OF JAPAN, WHICH IS ALSO THE LOCATION OF KODANSHA PUBLISHING'S MAIN OFFICES.

PAGE 12:

"THIS MONTH'S ISSUE HAD A 41-PAGE SHORT STORY PRINTED IN THE MIDDLE."

BESSATSU SHONEN MAGAZINE PRINTED THE FIRST PART OF 'OWARIMONOGATARI' BY NISIO ISIN IN THE ISSUE THIS CHAPTER WAS PUBLISHED IN. OWARIMONOGATARI FEATURES A LOT OF OUGI OSHINO, WHO IS THE CHARACTER IN THE MAGAZINE IN THE PANEL ABOVE.

"HOWEVER, THIS EVER INCREASINGLY HEFTY MANGA MAGAZINE.. MIGHT JUST SAVE A CERTAIN TELEVISION PERFORMER'S LIFE."

REFERENCE TO JAPANESE TELEVISION PERFORMER, KOJI KATO. WHILE PERFORMING ON A TELEVISION VARIETY SHOW, KOJI KATO PUSHED AKB48 IDOL MAYU WATANABE WITH HIS FOOT AND KNOCKED HER TO THE GROUND.

THE SCENE WAS PART OF A KIND OF SHOW THEY WERE DOING, WITH KATO DRESSED UP AND ACTING AS A STEREOTYPICAL ANGRY OLD MAN, INCLUDING WEARING A FALSE MOUSTACHE, AS CAN BE SEEN IN THESE PANELS, BOTH OF THEM LAUGHED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE THING.

HOWEVER, A GIF WAS MADE OF THE INCIDENT BUT WAS SPED UP SIGNIFICANTLY SO IT LOOKED AS IF HE WAS KICKING HER A LOT HARDER THAN HE WAS. THIS CREATED A HUGE SHITSTORM IN THE IDOL FAN BASE COMMUNITY, WHO STARTED TO SEND KOJI KATO DEATH THREATS. IN RESPONSE TO THE DEATH THREATS, FOR THE NEXT EPISODE OF THE VARIETY SHOW, KOJI KATO JOKINGLY STRAPPED A COPY OF BESSATSU SHONEN MAGAZINE ONTO HIS STOMACH, AS ARMOUR.

"THE LAST PAGE OF THE LEGENDARY MAGAZINE END MESSIAHS."

THIS IS A REFERENCE TO FIST OF THE NORTH STAR'S SUBTITLE: LEGEND OF THE CENTURY'S END MESSIAH.

THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE TEXT HERE IS 巻末救製紙伝説 (KANMATSU KYUU SEISHI DENSETSU) AS OPPOSED TO FIST OF THE NORTH STAR'S 世紀末救世主伝説 (SEIKIMATSU KYUSEISHU DENSETSU). THE WORD FOR MESSIAH IN JOSHIRAKU'S VERSION IS MADE UP OF 救製紙, 救 MEANING "TO SAVE" AND 製紙 MEANING BOOK AND PAPER MANUFACTURING.



MANY THANKS TO:

THE KUMETAN WIKI: ([HTTP://WIKI.KUMETAN.NET/](http://wiki.kumetan.net/))

NOT RED REVIEWS: ([HTTP://NOTREDREVIE.WS/?S=JOSHIRAKU](http://NOTREDREVIE.WS/?S=JOSHIRAKU))

THE KIND ANON WHO FOUND THE HIGHER QUALITY SCANS.

AND TO VARIOUS JAPANESE BLOGS/TWITTER ACCOUNTS/REVIEW WEBSITES/RAKUGO FANSITES/ZCH AND FUTABA THREADS FOR ANY OTHER INFORMATION I USED.

IF YOU LIKE THIS SERIES, PLEASE CONSIDER PURCHASING THE MANGA TO SUPPORT THE ORIGINAL CREATORS, KOJIJI KUMETA AND YASU.

AND CHECK OUT THE ANIME IF YOU HAVEN'T, IT'S A REALLY GREAT ADAPTATION.

TRANSLATED AND TYPESET BY: ANONYMOUS.

お後がよろしいようで.